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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 291

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 2012

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

NATION

Projections

White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043. Projected population by race and hispanic origin:



White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043. **► PAGE 17**

ASIA



North Korea successfully launches a satellite into space from its own soil. **► PAGE 19**

LIFE & STYLE



Ian McKellen reprises his role as Gandalf the Grey in "The Hobbit." **► PAGE 24**

Deal or No Deal to highlight 'Paskong Pinoy.' PAGE 6
Yvette Bennett is crowned Ms. Idaho US Int'l. PAGE 15

Fundraising to extradite Ed?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Administration says cost a major factor**

The courts have declared Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

"It should not be a question of cost, but when? We need to bring the former AG here. It's not about how much it would cost, but about doing the right thing," Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Torres said he will personally donate money to the cause, and he said



Buckingham

the idea was brought up by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Glen Hunter, a private citizen advocating for a transparent and corruption-free government, said it is rather "disturbing" that the Office of the Attorney General and the administration would delay responding to the good faith offer by the U.S. Department of Justice to help

See EXTRADITE on Page 4

Private citizens and individual lawmakers separately said yesterday they will donate funds to help cover the cost of extraditing former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham to the CNMI, but they also expressed disappointment that the administration would cite cost as a factor when it can further cut costs, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's off-island trips.

Names sought for potential Fund receiver

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

U. S. District Court designated-judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood wants all parties to submit recommendations for the possible appointment of a permanent receiver for the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood issued the order yesterday in response to a motion filed by the Fund early this week to name the current trustee *ad litem*, Joseph Razzano, as permanent receiver. The motion will be heard on Jan. 15, 2013.

The court ordered all parties to submit by Dec. 27 three names of qualified receivers and their curriculum vitae, in the event the court decides to make the appointment.

See NAMES on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

► **Superior Court urged to cite Fund *ad litem* for contempt.** PAGE 5



EMERGENCY REPAIR

Employees of GPPC Inc. work to fix a collapsed asbestos sewer line pipe along Orchid Street in the tourist district of Garapan on Tuesday night. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hopes that the emergency project, which detoured traffic in the area, will wrap up soon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Will the real AG please stand up?

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas designated Viola Alepuyo as deputy attorney general but some lawmakers said certain powers and duties delegated to Alepuyo, based on a Nov. 23 memorandum, almost gives her equal power to that of the AG himself. All eyes are now on the AG whether he will initiate or not the process of extra-



San Nicolas

ditioning former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham to the CNMI to face criminal charges.

"It looks like he's relinquishing his authority to the deputy AG. Perhaps she should have been the AG because of that memo, with all due respect to the AG. Now, will the real AG stand up?" said Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), when asked for

comment on the memo.

San Nicolas stated in his two-page memo that Alepuyo has "the authority to review and approve, as to form and legal sufficiency, all rules and regulations submitted to the attorney general."

Alepuyo may sub-delegate this responsibility to another when she is physically absent from the CNMI.

The AG also said that Alepuyo has "the authority to review and endorse, as to

form and legal capacity, all proposed contracts, bonds, or other evidence of contractual obligations of the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies and instrumentalities, including public corporations." Alepuyo may also sub-delegate this responsibility.

These two delegated duties were constitutionally afforded the attorney general by the NMI Constitution.

San Nicolas also said Alepuyo has "authority to review and certify that a defendant Commonwealth employee was acting within the scope of his/her office under the Government Liability

See AG on Page 4

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Low membership, language are challenges for Rotary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Besides geographical distance, low membership and language barrier serve as the biggest challenges for Rotary Clubs within Rotary International District 2750, according to district governor Takamoto Sakuma.

Sakuma, accompanied by assistant district governor Michael Perrin and translator Sonomi Sasayama, arrived on island Tuesday for an official visit with the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Sakuma, who joined the Rotary Club of Tokyo-Meguro in 1977, said in his remarks at Tuesday's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan that even Rotary Clubs in Japan decreased its number of members from 130,000 to 90,000, a

30-percent reduction.

The low numbers have been noted by Rotary International, he added.

Sakuma, who runs a plastic molding company in Meguro, underscored the importance of increasing club membership, which is why the district considers it one of its goals for 2012-2013.

"Please do your best to meet the challenge of increasing our membership," he told Rotarians, adding that a club's membership helps strengthen the group and gives it vitality.

Because District 2750 consists of Rotary Clubs in half of Tokyo, Guam, Saipan, and Federated States of Micronesia, language also becomes a barrier as it poses a challenge in the flow

See ROTARY on Page 4

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Some lawmakers' contractors may not be paying their taxes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some lawmakers' independent contractors may not be paying Social Security taxes and not paying their business gross revenue taxes on a monthly basis, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said.

Cabrera, in an interview, said he's been advised by the Department of Finance to remind members to "clear their taxes before they get payments."

"I think the checks for November and/or December are on hold until they get a tax clearance. I am just asking them to comply based on conversations with Finance,"

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

Many lawmakers enter into independent contracts with their office staffers. The independent contractors are the ones responsible to file and pay required taxes, not the lawmakers.

The speaker separately issued a memo, encouraging lawmakers with independent contracts to "remind their independent contractors to comply with Public Law 17-30 and to file all income with the Social Security Office for the calculations of social security taxes."

PL 17-30 requires the filing of business gross revenue taxes to be paid on a monthly basis, a change from the previous quarterly filing.



Cabrera

Bangladeshi community to mark Victory Day this coming Sunday

The Bangladeshi community of Saipan is inviting the public to join them in the celebration of their country's Victory Day on Dec. 16 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe. Bangladesh Cultural Group

president Rakibul Islam is urging all Bangladeshis on Saipan to join the celebration.

For inquiries, call Islam at 483-4448 or Bangladesh Cultural Group secretary Habibullah Badal at 287-6065. (PR)

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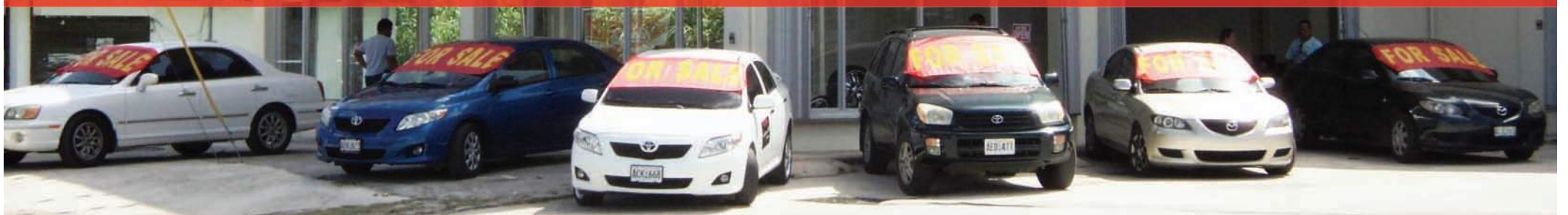
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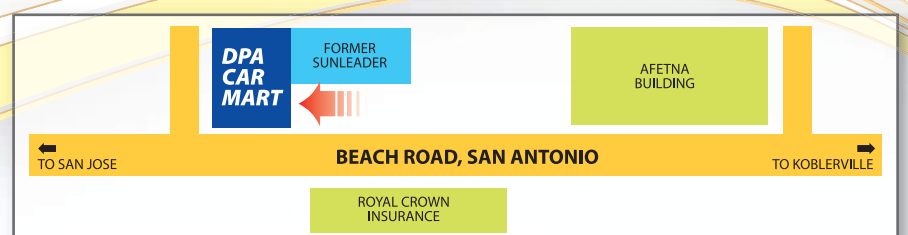


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Association offers assistance in double homicide case

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Investigation continues into the death of Jin Liu and another victim a week after their deaths, and the Chinese Association of Saipan said it is willing to help in any way it can to help solve the case or assist the victims' families.

Chinese Association's Rose Chan said yesterday that many of the Chinese nationals that they talked to do not know Liu, also known as Emma, and the release of her undated photo yesterday may prod those who know her to

come out and share what they know.

Also, Chan is hoping that police would be able to connect with Liu's family in China using immigration or business-related documents of the 40-year-old Liu, who was found dead in her San Vicente residence on Dec. 8.

Another dead body, that of a 50-year-old Chinese male, was also discovered at the scene of the crime. The male victim is believed to be Liu's husband, but authorities have yet to confirm his identity.

Chan, who operates Canton Restaurant and other businesses on island, said

that assistance has been sought from the Chinese Association of Saipan in previous deaths involving Chinese nationals, particularly in contacting the victim's families in China.

By experience, Chan said that they get in touch with families who also seek their help when they come out here and make funeral arrangements or for repatriation of bodies. Sometimes, the families would ask the group to handle matters from here on their behalf.

She said that like everybody else, the Chinese Association of Saipan is willing to provide assistance and offered

her deepest sympathy to Liu and the other victim's families.

Chan also expressed concern for Liu's 6-year-old son who has been taken into custody by the Division of Youth Services since Thursday night when he was not picked up by his parents from Mount Carmel School.

Chan said she is more worried about the first grader. She said she asked her friend to inquire with DYS if any as-

sistance can be extended to the young boy, but the agency said it's not allowed since he is under protection.

She urged the community to pray for the child's safety and for the resolution of the crime, which police believe may have taken place between Thursday morning and late afternoon.

The victims' car, a white 2010 Honda CRV, was taken by the suspect/s and left at Micro Beach.

AG

From Page 1

Act of 1983, as amended by P.L. 15-22."

He said that Alepuyo also has the "authority to review, approve, and if necessary, endorse all compromises and settlements on all civil claims whether brought pursuant to the Government Liability Act of 1983, as amended, or otherwise."

Two other duties delegated to Alepuyo have to do with personnel issues within the Office of the Attorney General.

One is the authority to review and approve administrative leave for attorneys and staff designated to the OAG's Civil Division. The other one is the authority to review and approve weekly time sheets for attorneys and staff of the OAG's Civil Division.

Alepuyo may sub-delegate these

last two authorities to another designee when she is physically absent from the CNMI.

"Unless specifically stated above, the authority delegated is not subject to sub-delegation. Notwithstanding the foregoing delegations, I reserve the right to personally exercise the powers and duties delegated to the deputy attorney general for any reason, for any subject, at my sole discretion," San Nicolas said in his two-page memo, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial named Alepuyo as acting AG when Buckingham indicated he won't be coming back to the CNMI. Buckingham, whom the courts declared a fugitive from justice, left the CNMI a day after the Office of the Public Auditor filed criminal charges against him and a day after he and the governor signed a no-bid, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement with Saipan De-

velopment LLC. The PPA is under a temporary injunction.

Fitial then appointed San Nicolas as AG and submitted his name to the Senate, which confirmed him a few weeks later. The Senate earlier rejected Alepuyo's nomination to a board/commission.

Some lawmakers said they cannot comment on the memo delegating authorities to Alepuyo, without comparing the delegation of authorities to former deputy AGs. Another government official also noted that San Nicolas has his office in Susupe while Alepuyo is on Capital Hill.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), in separate interviews yesterday, said they still believe San Nicolas is the right person for the AG job.

Torres cited San Nicolas' statement during the public hearing on his AG nomination, that he would work to restore trust and confidence in the OAG.

NAMES

From Page 1

Tydingo-Gatewood said the recommended individuals should be willing to serve immediately and will accept and assume authority as receiver over the pension agency.

In a separate order yesterday, the judge also sought responses to an emergency motion filed by the Fund proposing the release of refunds only to members who are compliant with their contributions. Responses should be filed today, Dec. 14, before 5pm.

The Fund will be allowed a reply to these responses no later than Dec. 17 at

8am. The judge indicated that the court will then issue a decision.

The Fund, through counsels Brad-dock Huesman and Daniel Berman, filed Wednesday an emergency motion asking that the trustee *ad litem* be allowed to disburse refund checks only to members who are updated with their contributions to the Fund.

A total of 1,745 members have applied to withdraw their employee contributions from the Fund. Only 93 have so far received their refund checks.

Based on documents filed in court, it was disclosed that eight of the 93 disbursed checks are for employees of the Public School System, which still owes \$256,000 in employee contributions

for fiscal year 2012 following the payment of \$1.1 million on Nov. 29.

Because the government—through PSS—has failed to remit 100 percent of all DB plan employees' contributions, and because employee contributions are considered funds held in trust for a particular employee, the Fund said it cannot disburse 100 percent of employee contributions.

The Fund, in its latest emergency motion, said that non-compliant employer members' applications cannot be approved unless and until the government remits 100 percent of employees' contributions. Calculation of interest will be determined at a later date.

ROTARY

From Page 2

of information from the district down to member clubs, said Sakuma.

Sakuma said he was "very impressed" with the Rotary Club of Saipan upon discovering that the organization is very active in the community.

Another main goal for the district, Sakuma said, is to encourage more support for the Rotary Foundation, saying it is vital in meeting the foundation's goals, including the eradication of polio. He said that there are two ways to support the Rotary Foundation: through service activities or direct donation.

During the meeting, Sakuma also shared a recorded message from Rotary International president Sakuji Tanaka, who emphasized the 2012-2013 theme, "Peace Through Service."

Tanaka said that while peace has many meanings, it is understood by many and Rotary Clubs help people achieve it through their community activities that provide healthcare, food,



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Rotary International District 2750 Gov. Takamoto Sakuma, third right, receives a Rotary Club of Saipan banner from the club's officials during a meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday. Also in photo are, from left to right, Rotary Club of Saipan secretary Richard Cody, vice president Laila Boyer, president Pete Shilling, translator Sonomi Sasayama, and assistant district governor Michael Perrin.

and education, among others.

"Rotary helps us build peace by reducing the case of conflict and building bridges in relationships," he said.

Tanaka challenged Rotarians to focus their energy on the peace thrust, saying that prevention and resolution of conflicts can be done through services

that promote education, economic, and community development.

He pointed out that the success of each club depends on its members.

"Now is the time for all of you to plan your growth. Choose goals that are ambitious. Commit to Rotary goals and service," added Tanaka.

EXTRADITE

From Page 1

bring Buckingham back to the CNMI to stand trial.

"While I understand that times are tough, money should never be a legitimate excuse for violating the law nor should it be an excuse for not properly enforcing the law. The fact that no immediate response from the OAG to DoJ was made to officially enlist their support speaks volumes as to where they stand on the issue," Hunter said.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) also said he will contribute money to the cause, adding that he discussed the idea before he and two other lawmakers formally asked Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas on Wednesday to write a letter to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco, which is necessary to initiate the extradition.

Some lawmakers said the cost of restoring public trust and confidence not only in the OAG but the government as a whole outweighs the dollar amount.

"I always believe that people are innocent until proven guilty. In the case of Buckingham, the courts already declared him a fugitive. Bringing him back here should be a priority regardless of the cost. We can calculate the cost by estimating the airfare, the use of Corrections. It's not going to be that much," Torres said.

Former lieutenant governor and speaker Diego Benavente, in a separate interview, said he will chip in as much as he can to help bring Buckingham back to face the charges but he's disappointed that the administration is citing cost as a major consideration.

"I hope this is not their way to try to get out of it, to not bring Buckingham back," he said. "It's sad that the community has to raise money to bring him back. Sacrifices can be made to cut costs in government, especially when there's obvious waste of public funds. There might also be spare money after the end of the fiscal year."

Hunter echoed Benavente's sentiments on government priorities.

"I must say that is surprising that an administration that has spent so much money travelling would be concerned with the cost of airfare to return Buckingham to the CNMI. Fitial is currently away on a junket after just having returned from one weeks before. Many of the governor's trips have included the companionship of his press secretary, Angel Demapan, something many in the public have seen as an extravagant waste of public funds. Perhaps the administration can simply cancel of few of their planned junkets and prioritize those funds to the just return of Buckingham to the CNMI," he said.

Hunter said he commends those suggesting a fundraising effort to bring back Buckingham.

"I have heard others suggest the same and many members of the community have openly offered to make personal donations to ensure that the former AG, now a fugitive, is brought back to face justice. I am sure any fundraising effort will garner much community support. One other option that I have heard discussed is an air mileage drive," he said.

He said there is no question that Buckingham was served his penal summons.

"There is no question that he failed to abide by that court order. I would think that should he be extradited the costs involved in forcing him to do what he should have done voluntarily will eventually fall on him personally," Hunter added.

Benavente said Buckingham should be brought back to the CNMI not only to face the criminal charges filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor, but also to shed light on the no-bid, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement.

"It's a scam," Benavente said, referring to the planned power plant and shipyard facility project in Lowe Base by Saipan Development LLC.

The PPA is now under temporary injunction. It was one of the issues cited in a defeated resolution to impeach the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. The impeachment resolution would be re-introduced as early as January.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the issue of money should not hold back a decision to extradite the former AG, who—along with the governor—signed a \$190.8 million PPA when they knew the government and the CNMI people would have to pay for it.

"We're talking about \$190.8-million that shouldn't have been signed in the first place," he said, agreeing with Benavente's statement that the former AG should not only face the criminal charges filed by OPA but to answer lingering questions about the power purchase deal.

Hunter also said he hopes the Office of the Public Auditor, through its special prosecutor/assistant attorney general George Hasselback, "can once again pick up their slack and make the official request."

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas earlier said he agrees with Delegate Sablan that extraditing Buckingham to the CNMI "would help restore and trust confidence in the Office of the Attorney General." But he said he is "not at liberty to state with specificity what I will do at this time."

Sablan said the U.S. Department of Justice is willing to pursue Buckingham but the CNMI has to initiate the process to extradite him. He said a request from San Nicolas to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco "would be necessary...to initiate Mr. Buckingham's capture."

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos told reporters that the decision to extradite Buckingham rests with the attorney general, in consultation with the governor, and that the administration is also looking at the cost factor in the process.

Buckingham is facing criminal charges in connection with his alleged hosting of a political campaign in 2010 for the governor's delegate candidate, obstruction of justice in August 2012 when he allegedly used police and ports police officers to shield him from being served a penal summons, approval of a sole-source ARRA management contract, and approval of a no-bid, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement, among other things.

Superior Court urged to cite Fund *ad litem* for contempt

»CPA says Razzano ignored laws; agency opposes appointment as receiver

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority wants NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano to be held in contempt for allegedly ignoring court orders and failure to comply with Commonwealth laws.

In a seven-page document filed yesterday by CPA counsel Robert T. Torres, the agency also expressed its strong opposition to the proposed appointment of Razzano as the Fund's permanent receiver.

CPA is one of the interveners in the case between the Fund and the central government. The Superior

Court has allowed it to receive updates on the Fund's efforts to collect the judgment from the government and the steps the Fund is taking to protect the contributions of active members. Torres claimed that the *ad litem* has not done so.

This week, the Fund filed motions in the federal court, to which CPA failed to receive any notification. Among the filed documents are the Fund's amended complaint against the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. over unpaid employer contributions and a motion to appoint the *ad litem* as permanent receiver for the

pension agency.

According to CPA, the trustee *ad litem* has done little—if anything—to preserve the Fund assets, raise revenues, and collect on the judgment.

"Following on the heels of the Fund's failed and meritless bankruptcy filing, the [trustee *ad litem*] has failed to report to this court on efforts to collect on the judgment and has refused to update the court and all parties in this lawsuit about the Fund's financial status," stated the court document, adding that Razzano also ignored his responsibility to act on the applications of those members of the defined ben-

efit plan to terminate their membership, stop employee contributions, and return their money to them.

It will be recalled that the Fund, citing the unpaid obligations of PSS, suspended the disbursement of refund checks. CPA, despite fully complying with its employer and employee contributions to the Fund, was affected by this suspension. It was revealed that thousands of current government employees who are seeking the return of their employee contributions are being forced to continue making employee contributions to a Fund that will neither protect them or let them go. CPA disclosed that nearly a hundred of its personnel are now being affected by what it described as the

inaction of the trustee.

For the CPA, appointing Razzano as a permanent receiver of the Fund would add insult to injury, describing him as not a CNMI resident and has no interest in the community.

"All that this trustee has done, besides avoiding the jurisdiction of this court, is to submit billing statements for work that has brought little, if any, value to the

Fund," stated CPA in its filing.

The agency added that the *ad litem*, it appears, "is deliberately ignoring his responsibilities to the local court while he looks to the federal court for the appointment of a financially rewarding, permanent position."

According to Torres, the court's tentative hearing date on the motion is on Dec. 28 at 9am before Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Ayuyu seeks more time to prepare for defense

The lawyer for Rota Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu is asking for more time to prepare for their defense in the trial that's scheduled for next month.

Ayuyu, along with Ryan James Manglona, was charged in October with violating and conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act.

The indictment alleged that on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu and Manglona conspired to hide eight dead Mariana fruit bats (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) beneath 40 lbs of lemons inside a cardboard box in an attempt to transport the box to Saipan aboard a Freedom Air flight.

Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Ayuyu, told the federal court Wednesday that because the government has provided voluminous discovery documents, the review of these newly disclosed documents will require more time.

Ayuyu has pleaded not guilty.

The jury trial is currently set to start on Jan. 7, 2013. The defendants were released on \$20,000 unsecured bond plus other conditions.

Last week, a hearing was conducted to determine whether Ayuyu violated one or more local laws while on pretrial release for this criminal case when the senator allegedly threatened to kill

Rep. Janet U. Maratita during a telephone conversation on Dec. 4, 2012, at about 3:45 p.m. The federal court however finds no evi-

dence that will revoke the pretrial release of the lawmaker.

A change of plea agreement for Ayuyu's co-defendant, Ryan James Manglona, is set today, Dec. 14 at 2pm. (Moneth G. Deposa)

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Deal or No Deal game to highlight 'Paskong Pinoy' tomorrow

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A grand prize of \$2,000 is at stake for the lucky contestant of the Deal or No Deal Game, which will highlight United Filipino Organization's *Paskong Pinoy* 2012, the group's annual signature holiday event to be held from 3pm to 10pm tomorrow at the Garapan Fishing Base.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said it would be the biggest cash prize at stake for the contest based on the popular U.S. television game show and was initially launched by the group during the *Pistang Pinoy* event in June.

The contest will feature the briefcase ladies and host Ulysses Sabuco. Raffle tickets for \$1 each will be available tomorrow at the event for a chance

to become a contestant for Deal or No Deal, which will show-

case guest performances from Froilan De Leon and the Amaz-

ing Show Girls 2013.

Malasarte said yesterday that

the prize money was donated by generous businesses, organizations, and individuals in an effort to make tomorrow's event another success.

Docomo Pacific is *Paskong Pinoy* 2012's major sponsor. Other sponsors include the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, First Lady Vision Foundation, LBC, Western Union, Mariana Resort & Spa, Barny's Pizza, Kristo Rai Parish, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Eli Arago, former CNMI Consul General Medardo Macaraig, HRB, Coca-Cola, Songgay's House of Beauty, and Joeten Enterprises.

Tomorrow's event will also feature other competitions such as the lantern, choral and individual singing, and art contests. Cash prizes are also at stake for the winners of each contest.

A number of local performing groups and individuals will also provide entertainment. They are Glushko's Academy, Keynotes School of Music, MHS Rhythm & Blues, Saipan High Chorale, Rose Dance School, Golden Harvest Dance Troupe, Kristo Rai Children's Choir, Jay-R Barro, Chistylyn Montilla, Erica Faye, Lawrence and Justin Tubera and Sherjean, and Anayuki Dela Cruz.

Malasarte said they will set

up the stage, tents, and booths throughout the day in preparation for tomorrow's event that's free to the public.

'Pablo' fund drive

UFO will also have a booth where guests can donate to the fund drive for the victims of Super Typhoon Pablo, which wreaked havoc in the southern Philippines.

UFO already collected a total of \$734.88 when it launched the fund drive last Saturday at the Sabalu Farmers Market and Marianas Business Plaza flea market, and the amount is expected to increase by tomorrow when the fund drive concludes, said Malasarte.

"Hopefully it will reach more than \$1,000," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We extend our appreciation to all those who heeded our plea and donated any amount they can share. Our donation would help ease the hardships that the victims of Super Typhoon Pablo are going through. Christmas is just around the corner so I hope we can all give whatever we can to them."

All funds collected will be endorsed to the Philippine Red Cross, which has maintained a strong relationship with UFO, the network of some 20 Filipino groups in the Northern Marianas.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Fitial, SDLLC show cause hearing date change requested, opposed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Saipan Development LLC's rescheduled Dec. 31 show cause hearing in connection with a sole-source, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement may still change as SDLLC attorney William M. Fitzgerald asked yesterday for a Jan. 2 hearing instead, while plaintiffs' attorney Ramon K. Quichocho opposed the motion for continuance.

Fitzgerald asked Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman to move the show cause hearing from Dec. 31 to Jan. 2 because the SDLLC counsel is scheduled to be off-island for the holidays and would return on Jan. 1. He said he has a pre-paid airline reservation.

Quichocho, in a separate court filing yesterday, said he opposes SDLLC's motion for continuance because another lawyer can cover for Fitzgerald during the hearing and to prevent further delays in the matter.

Quichocho, counsel for Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), and the CNMI Senate in a taxpayers' lawsuit over the 25-year PPA, said that Fitzgerald called him on Dec. 12 and suggested moving the show cause hearing to Jan. 2. He said he asked Fitzgerald whether any of SDLLC's representatives will show up "and he indicated to me that it will probably just be him."

"Mr. Fitzgerald then indicated to me that it's okay even if the hearing is not moved because he can have Mr. Mark Hanson cover the hearing for him. Therefore, unless a representative of SDLLC, and not just the attorney[s], will show up at the Dec. 31, 2012, order to show cause hearing, it will be unjust and unfair and unwarranted to delay the hearing," Quichocho said.

He also said that Fitzgerald's motion and declaration do not indicate if he has verified with the court that the latter can accommodate the hearing on Jan. 2.

"If, however, the court is inclined to continue the hearing as to SDLLC, plaintiffs request that the order to show cause as to defendant Benigno R. Fitial go forward on Dec. 31, 2012 at 2pm," Quichocho added.

The court issued preliminary injunctions on the \$190.8-million PPA. However, when Maratita found out that Fitial and at least three senators met with SDLLC a few weeks ago to discuss the PPA, he asked the court to hold the governor and SDLLC in contempt and fine them up to \$10,000 daily for allegedly violating the court orders on the PPA. The court granted Maratita's motion and set a Dec. 28 hearing for order to show cause, but changed the date on Wednesday to Dec. 31. Maratita also asked senators to refrain from meeting with SDLLC officials or representatives so as not to jeopardize the case.

For more information please call 287-8145 • 233-5567

Kagman JROTC cadets bring joy to the *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of their service learning project, students from Kagman High School's JROTC program brought holiday smiles to senior citizens at the Aging Center yesterday.

Led by Capt. James Burke, the group arrived at the center around 10am for the project that aims to provide orientation and training, meaningful service, and structured reflection.

The group showcased three performances: the first was the award-winning fancy drill group, the second was the rifle drill skills, while the third featured classic Christmas carols, much to the delight of the *man'amko* who cheered and danced.

A total of 41 cadets from the Home of the Ayuyus took part in the event. Their preparation lasted some two weeks, with rehearsals being done during lunch breaks and after classes.

Burke said the Kagman High School JROTC has been coming to the center for 10 years, choosing it as a venue for the service learning project that allows them to interact with senior citizens.

"It will always be a pleasure to come back here every year. We hope that your holiday season is as happy as we are to be here with you," Burke told the *man'amko*.

Maria T. Salinas, president of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council, thanked the students



As part of their service learning project, Kagman High School JROTC cadets sing Christmas carols for the senior citizens at the Aging Center yesterday morning.

for taking time to visit the elderly, describing them as "very talented kids" who gave "fantastic" performances.

"Continue practicing. You can only get better and better," she advised the cadets.

Alfred Ada, Kagman High School principal, also attended the event to support the *man'amko* and the students. He said the students' learning project at the center broadens their minds, allowing them to give back to the community while giving them a different perspective about the elderly.

Yesterday's event also featured personally made Christmas cards with miniature candy canes that the students handed out to each *man'amko*.

Sgt. Ana Matsunaga Lieto said she was initially unsure about participating in the event

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but was glad she did since it was fun interacting with the senior citizens.

"It's nice to do good deeds for the community, even just doing something as simple as singing carols or making cards for the *man'amko*. I talked to them and they really enjoyed themselves. I'm happy to see them happy," Lieto told *Saipan Tribune*. "I really hope they enjoy life as long as they have it."

Cadet Lt. Col. Dorothy Jebeln, 16, said yesterday's event was her third time to interact with the *man'amko* through the service learning project.

"It makes me feel spirited and happy that when we perform, we see the smiles in their faces. It brings us so much joy," she said.

Jebeln's Christmas wish for the senior citizens at the center is for them to always wear a smile. "I look forward to next year's visit," she added.

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Homefront Support provides comfort for holidays

The combined effort of local businesses, schools, and individuals for Operation Homefront Support has led to the delivery of approximately 75 percent of the total care packages as of Tuesday, just in time for the holidays.

"As of today, 197 of the 267 care packages have already been delivered," said John Hirsh of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, according to a recent online report. "The [OHS] organizers are happy to see that many of the care packages have been delivered to our service men and women living around the world."

In response to receiving packages, soldiers have replied to the OHS email account with

much gratitude.

"I just received the wonderful package in the mail today," said a servicemember in an email. "It was a very pleasant surprise! Thankfulness is next to Godliness. So let me thank all the volunteers who put in endless

"I was in tears, deeply thinking how thankful I was to receive these kinds of gifts coming from the islands we truly miss so much and to the humble people that made this possible. Deeper into the package I found a Chamorro Christmas

song CD and letters from grade school students with their kind words of encouragement...these are the things that keep us going. Thank

you to the great students of the CNMI. I/We are truly, truly thankful that we are not left behind as well. I am speechless right now, words are not enough to describe how much this means to us. Thank you, thank you, thank you. P.S.

Kindly give my regards to the Operation Homefront Support and the sponsors, most especially the students of the CNMI. Peace and God bless the CNMI."

The remaining packages are expected to reach the remaining recipients before Dec. 25.

Operation Homefront Support is in its fifth year. The program is a local community collaboration that sends out care packages to CNMI service members stationed in the U.S. mainland and around the world. The program is funded by generous contributions from local companies and individuals.

For more information about this program, contact 234-3459. (ARC Staff)



American Red Cross

hours as well as the numerous sponsors who help put together all the care packages. May God bless you all!"

"I was totally shocked to find a package at my front door yesterday morning," another servicemember emailed.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 14, 1999

Go easy on Rota school project, OPA tells PSS

The Office of the Public Auditor has cautioned the Public School System against taking over the completion of a school project on Rota without an evaluation of the unfinished portion in view of the differences in the construction costs. In a disclosure report on Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School project, Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte advised PSS officials to seek independent appraiser as well as legal opinion before taking over its construction. According to OPA chief, PSS must establish actual construction costs as the figures provided by the Department of Public Works do not match with the estimates from its financier, SNM Corp. which owns the Rota Resort and Golf Country Club.

Volunteer group eyed to protect Managaha

The Division of Environmental Quality has proposed creation of a community-based volunteer group to help government authorities enforce regulations of the planned marine conservation area in Managaha and surrounding waters. DEQ Director Ignacio V. Cabrera said this assistance from grassroots level will lead to the success of the project for the protection of the island's fish and wildlife as well as other marine resources. "If this important step of the process is not done with the participation and support of the community, it is not likely to succeed," he said in his testimony presented to the House Natural Resources Committee.

Dec. 14, 2001

Teno: Constitution shields some govt officials

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has turned down-courteously-a request by the Transition Committee to instruct various government officials to tender courtesy resignations to Governor-elect Juan N. Babauta. In a letter addressed to Transition Committee Chairman Thomas B. Pangelinan, Tenorio pointed out that the CNMI Constitution prohibits him from asking for the resignation of certain officials unless there is due cause. Pangelinan had asked Tenorio in a letter dated December 12 to instruct Cabinet secretaries, special advisors, division directors, commission members and board members to submit their courtesy resignations to the Governor-elect effective January 14, 2002.

DOF failed to reimburse over \$18M in US grants

The Department of Finance has failed to reimburse at least \$18 million from various federal grantees since 2000, an amount, if collected, would help alleviate the current economic condition of the Commonwealth. Rep. William S. Torres said he will meet with finance officials to discuss the alleged failure of the department to draw down \$10 million in federal money in 2001 and another \$8 million in 2000. Torres hinted, however, that the amount could be more than \$18 million considering that the finance department has not been conducting a regular reimbursement process.

Dec. 14, 2002

Babauta signs 3 bills into law

Gov. Juan N. Babauta interrupted a regular session of the House of Representatives yesterday to sign into law three bills that raise the taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks, make the CNMI eligible to receive its share of the tobacco settlement funds, and enact language that paves the way for the settlement of \$40 million in land compensation claims. Despite diverse lines of attack, Babauta said all three measures have one thing in common-the ultimate goal of jumpstarting the moribund economy with the injection of both local and federal dollars into government coffers and private pockets.

MHS' drug-free program takes back seat

The Marianas High School has set aside its drug-free program for lack of federal funding, MHS principal James Denight said yesterday. Denight said the program is currently on hold pending the resolution of the new federal guidelines. In particular, he said the U.S. Education Department has not released the guidelines on the particular grant under the newly approved No Child Left Behind Act. This, as the principal said the school administration is hoping that students exercise sound judgment, especially on issues relating to drugs and reproductive health. "We hope that students are getting the message and be will more responsible," he said, in reference to the latest survey showing that a large number of high school students surveyed in 2001 claimed to have used illegal drugs and substances.

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Chorizos \$15⁹⁹ 3 lbs.	Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢	Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.	Gold Medal Flour \$3²⁵ 37.02 OZ.	Royal Spaghetti Noodle \$2⁴⁹ 1 kg.	White Sugar 2kg \$2⁷⁹ 2 KG.	Lotus Rice 50lbs. \$25⁹⁹	Vega Shrimps \$5⁷⁹ /LB.	Kikkoman Soy Sauce \$4²⁵ 1.6 L.	Sunkist \$6⁹⁹ CASE	
King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal \$32⁴⁹	Country Lime Lemonade, Tang, Orange, Kool-Aid \$7⁹⁹	Coffee Mate \$7⁹⁹ 50 OZ.	Folgers Coffee \$11⁹⁹ 33.3 OZ.	Maxwell Coffee Mix \$7⁹⁹ 100CT.	Fresco Vegetable Oil \$9⁴⁹ 1 GAL.	Wilkins Water \$2⁹⁹ 6000ML	Rota Water \$5⁹⁹ CASE	Ace Butane Gas \$23⁵⁰ CASE	Ruby Kist Orange & Apple Juice \$3⁹⁹ 64oz.	

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 295

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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The Dallas Morning News

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Religion took a back seat in 2012 election

An odd thing happened in this year's presidential election: Religion didn't play a major role. The diminishing of its place could set an appropriate precedent for the 2016 campaign, which some hopefuls already are considering.

Sure, there was a swirl of debate about religious freedom, mostly about the Obama administration requiring Catholic institutions to provide contraceptive coverage. And Mitt Romney's faith drew coverage, allowing Mormons to debut nationally the way evangelicals did with Jimmy Carter in 1976.

But religion largely wasn't onstage like it has been in recent elections. There was little courting of high-profile pastors such as Rick Warren, Jim Wallis and John Hagee.

And issues such as gay marriage, abortion and Islamic extremism didn't drive the debate. At least not like how the 2004 Bush campaign used gay marriage to win voters in swing states like Ohio. Or how Obama courted young evangelicals in 2008, hoping to winnow down the margin of evangelicals voting Republican.

This shift is a good thing since some voters are getting worn out with all the God talk.

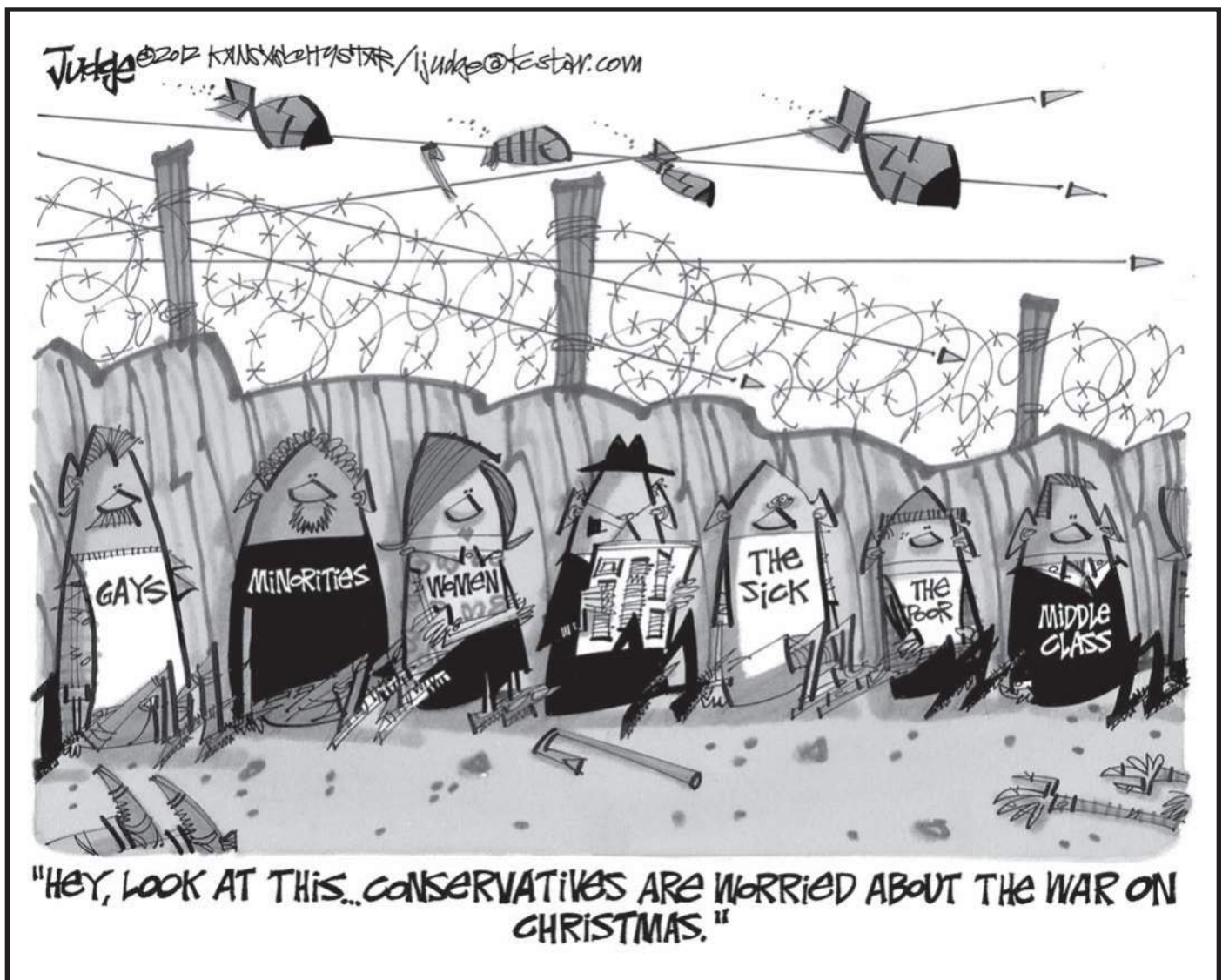
In March, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life published a survey that showed nearly 40 percent of Americans thought this year's White House hopefuls were talking too much about God. That was the highest percentage in a decade, up from only 12 percent who thought the candidates were invoking God too much in 2001.

Taking a step back from so much talk about God and politics actually could help voters sort out the natural relationship that exists between religion and politics. These forces always will intersect. They each are about values such as compassion, stewardship and freedom. And policymakers can't afford to ignore the role religion plays in the world.

Diplomats in the Mideast, Africa and Latin America especially must stay informed about how religious beliefs shape their host countries. Religion influences the culture of those regions, whether through the interplay of the three Abrahamic faiths or the explosive growth of one or more faiths.

But, as that Pew survey revealed, the God talk has gotten a bit much. So has the manipulation of the religious marketplace by U.S. politicians and their strategists. Candidates' religious values get trotted out to rev up voters, all while denying that's the aim. Rick Perry's Houston prayer rally as he kicked off his presidential bid exemplified the blurring of the religious and political.

See RELIGION on Page 13



The gift of learning

This Christmas, among my peers, many kids will be getting gifts aimed at increasing their competitive abilities. Examples include instructional books in math and science, instructional software in math and science, and scientific calculators.

There is an entire galaxy of learning aids and products out there, geared toward giving the ambitious youngsters a way to get ahead. I think this has changed since I was a kid. I don't remember the market for supplemental education being so big, formal, and developed. Back then, we had to pretty much make it up as we went. But the basic truth has not changed over the years: Do the best you can with what you've got.

For example, when I was a high school freshman, I wanted to learn to program computers. Small computers for the home were just experimental toys for hobbyists at the time. My school had no provision to teach computer programming. But I had an algebra teacher who helped me get going.

He gave me a book on FORTRAN (a programming language) and arranged for me to run my routines via the school's mainframe computer.

This was easier said than done.

First of all, to write a program, I had to go to a vocational training room of the high school and use a keypunch machine to format cardboard cards that would be fed into the computer.

Unless you've got gray hair you won't remember these cards. They were basically index cards that had little holes in them. The position of the holes is how the computer read them, and the keypunch machine, as you've probably gathered by the name, is how the holes get onto the cards.

I messed up my keypunching all the time, so it would take me forever, as in several days, to get my cards done.

Then I'd go down to the attendance office, which was my point of contact to drop off my cards. Unfortunately, I was on bad terms with the attendance office because of my habitual truancy.

So I'd slither in, hand over my cards, and slither back out again as the attendance lady gave me the stink-eye.

By the following afternoon my printout (white and green striped paper) would be wrapped around the cards I had submitted, and deposited into my algebra teacher's inbox. I'd fish the printout from his inbox, and then the real work started. I'd have to debug the program, and my humble little routines had more bugs than an ant fest at a sugar party.

Given this clunky process, it would take me weeks and weeks of solid, incompetent effort to get even the most simple things done.

The next year fortune smiled on me. I wound up studying another programming language, APL, via a course at Northwestern Univer-

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



sity. "APL" stands for A Programming Language (yes, really).

APL was the .44 magnum of programs, a real hotshot way to crunch matrices, among other things. I meshed with APL a lot better than I did with FORTRAN, though I was never anything more than a bungling newbie with either language.

Best of all, there were no keypunch machines. We had real, live terminals to do our work on. Instead of making an error per day, I could make a thousand per hour. Hey, that's more my style.

The computer terminals weren't in the classroom. They were in a dedicated room. And I could spend as much time there as I wanted. So I spent all my time there. This aggravated my truancy problem in high school, but what did I care, I was an APL man!

Well, more like an APL boy. To the college students I looked like a mutant runt or something. The college women ignored me. Nobody talked to me. Nobody, that is, except one guy that I remember from the terminal room.

He was always writing programs that gave 2-dimensional projections of x-dimensional shapes, and "x" was always some wacky-large number. I was so stupid that he liked explaining this stuff to me, since it was a way for him to force his thoughts into small, discrete little baby steps, so he could sort of think aloud. In short, I was his in-house village idiot. But, for all my idiocy, I could concentrate for three or four hours at a stretch, with total, unwavering focus, as we went through our discussions.

Meanwhile, he would, with infinite patience, spend hours helping me with APL problems that my classmates could probably solve in two minutes.

That doesn't sound like much of a triumph. But, for me, it was. I learned that if you want to go up, it's better to be the dumbest guy in the room than the smartest. I think it's a valuable outlook for being as competitive as possible, and if that seems counterintuitive in this age of narcissism, then so much the better.

The road to that lesson began with a used book on FORTRAN. Some of today's youth will have nicer presents, all wrapped up under the tree, no less, but carrying the same basic payload.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Winter of uncertainty

The looming impeachment percolates into daily mouthwash most anywhere in the archipelago. It is sufficient tale that a meaningful working relationship with the new legislative majority and the administration would be impossible to broker with any sense of civility. Extending the olive branch is useless. The vicious relationship seems biblical: "An eye for an eye!"

It isn't necessarily sound policy matter to employ as we ring in the New Year, but that is the stormed up nature of the beast. In fact, it could stir more acrimony and uncertainty in the relationship of leadership, including the fate of these isles. It could cement fatal gridlock if one chamber fails the other.

However tough an issue to pacify, the evil genius and master behind the severed relationships started with the peddler of homogenized, pasteurized, and silk milk. He thought he still has political hegemony—control. He decided to burn his bridges. Ironically, the people he torched are the new legislative majority. He once had 10 servile allies, then tried desperately for seven in the midterm election, but was rebuked and reduced to four at day's end on Nov. 7.

I am sure most lay people try to understand with some sense of clarity the heavy issues that have descended on these isles. This and other pertinent issues work up storms in our mind as we prepare for this year's *noche buena*.

The pile of controversies requires some modicum of civility and perspective. It's no Sunday picnic nor is it a casual and cool walk in the park. But one thing is definitely clear: The verdict of the midterm election didn't come from political parties but "We the people." Sobering the troubling this Winter of Uncertainty!

■ ■ ■ ■

Enduring hopelessness

Investment and revenue generation have declined significantly and simultaneously, too. The investment climate has deteriorated, irreparably. You quiz why the deafening silence hunkered down by complacency from this administration or why the aura of "business as usual" amidst fatal economic disaster at home.

The deafening silence is even sobering, its dire effects viciously

roasting the livelihood of our people in villages throughout the NMI. Must we endure the gift-wrapped silence and obvious negligence issues of a "do-nothing" administration and for how much longer? Is ad hoc planning, if you could call it that, its forte on a highly fragile and complicated resource-poor island economy? It has failed to grow the economy, but then why venture piling more debts by the billions of dollars when revenue generation has gone deep south? It's a non-sequitur!

This administration should have focused, by trying to anticipate what the next economic trend might be six years ago. It should have begun work on what policies can put the CNMI on a sustainable path of economic growth. Somehow it simply dropped the ball as though it doesn't have "We the people's" mandate to lift everybody's boat from an impending economic disaster.

Such negligence has led to what's called "dystopia," where nothing works! Indeed, the obvious lack of a fully thought-out socioeconomic plan is conveniently substituted with ad hoc planning, as though the issues aren't sufficiently complicated given the nature of island economies. The cataclysmic conditions wrought by such fully honed negligence leaves the multitude asking, "What now?" Is the deepening hopelessness the halo or *mwamwar* we all must wear and endure as our trophy from this administration?

■ ■ ■ ■

Jockeying for position

The impeachment conversation has morphed—shifted—into who would emerge as the next Senate president. In turn this person could be appointed lieutenant governor if and when the governor is impeached and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos fills the top post.

There are three political matadors jockeying for the presidency. The eventual decision poses yet another query: Would this be the person who will run with the current lieutenant governor if the latter decides to seek the post in the next gubernatorial race?

Whatever the case may be, this person must vote affirmatively to convict the governor if he really wants to serve as lieutenant governor. The onus is on him to convict the governor. It's no easy feat.

A challenge to NAP recipients

I would like to put up a challenge to all NAP recipients who are capable of finding and growing on jobs. Many of us claim that there are no jobs out there, or that employers never respond whenever one visits an organization and submits an application or résumé.

Do not be discouraged with such reasons. Many of these reasons may be legitimate, depending upon the skills that a job seeker has or know. You see, employers are busy and sometimes they take note of how you appear looking for jobs at their establishments, how you fill up applications and résumé, and other legitimate factors that may be screening you out of jobs. While some employers may stereotype you as a food stamp recipient, many others still wants to give you a chance to occupy jobs that you are qualified for and available to fill. But they can't just hire you because the job primary preference says so just because you are a U.S. eligible worker. You see, it takes more than just being a U.S. worker. It takes qualifications and strength that gives the employer the assurance that you are reliable, dependable, and can do the job.

There is no truth to the belief that there are "no jobs" out there. The latest report from USCIS indicates that there are at least 7,000-plus CW-1 petitioners. Of this, there are about 12,000-plus beneficiaries. If you are to translate this in simpler terms, there are at least 12,000 jobs available out there for competition for qualified and available U.S. eligible workers to fill.

NAP recipients are faced with challenges to get the job they want. First, it is a challenge that they do not come to work and are not dependable. This image was built due to the known fact that if they find a steady job that provides 80 hours of work, they will lose benefits or lowered benefits. While benefits can provide all the "steaks" you want that as working class at times you can't afford, you can't afford to buy others in need because you do not have a job that brings in the cash into the family household.

A friend of mine and I met at a shopping center to buy me some food that I wanted to eat. While I was conscious about the price, my friend from one end of that same aisle was putting all kinds of steaks into the cart. At the counter, while we were paying for our purchases, his son started crying for a \$2 toy car. I saw that he was embarrassed because he did not have the cash but food stamps on hand. He whispered and told his son next time when he finds the money. I saw and sensed his son's disappointment. He came to me one day and asked me to help him find a job because he does not want to experience the same thing. Apparently, the experience hurt him. He got a job and when he came to office with two cell phones and two pagers, I made a fool of myself by thinking that he is hooked on something. I made a point to ask him and it turned out that my stupidity was confirmed. He started working as a deliveryman and now he is a general manager and not only can he afford to buy his son a car but he is now driving

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



It also throws a monkey wrench on Inos' back if the political affiliation is different from his. In other words, would the two run in tandem or would they part ways at some point in the near term?

Interesting the unfolding shift of events that makes future selection of leadership a mixed bag. Well, on rainy days it gets muddy. On sunny days, the dust kicks up. We're trying to use our blurred prism to figure out what lies ahead. Hello? Anybody home?

■ ■ ■ ■

Central Intra-marital Affairs (CIA)

It was more exciting reading how the CIA has morphed into Central Intra-marital Affairs on the mounting Petreus/Broadwell affair. It provided space to revisit others who used the high color of office for that "golden glorious" that definitely jerked rational minds out of their wits.

There was Washington and Jefferson, the latter fathering a child with a slave. But I like Bubba and Monica, you know, where Bill used a Cuban cigar on his mistress' deep valleys.

Well, promiscuity started with the biblical Adam and Eve. Adam wasn't about to listen to the Lord when he started salivating for that "golden glorious." Goes to show the animal tendencies in man that simply ignores all precepts in favor of satisfying coconut greed.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Romney-Pacquiao meeting was interesting: Both hit the canvas face down, knocked out by Latinos. *A' Saina!* Standup comedian Jay Leno also related how two poor people joined hands when they entered a taxicab in New York. One took all four tires, the other the radio and everything else he could pull. Call it cooperation!

By ALFRED A. PANGELINAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Alfred A. Pangelinan is director of the Job Availability and Placement Section of the CNMI Department of Labor.



a very nice souped up pickup truck himself.

I am challenging each NAP recipients to change the image that is fast becoming a myth among employers: The mental state that they do not really want a job but are only searching to satisfy the requirement of NAP work registration. It is time to change this by thinking that you really do want a job that you can make a career out of and grow on it professionally and personally. Become less dependent on subsistence benefits and find a job that you can claim that sense of responsibility in taking care of your castle. Finding and growing on a career means a new and improved life that will definitely benefit you and your household. Perhaps you can earn enough for your steaks and also cash for the car toy that a son may ask of you. It can be done. So what say you, both a car and steak, or just "steak"?

You want a push in the right direction? Call Mr. Manases Iguel, Evelyn Sablan, and Dennis Cabrera at 664-3190 or 322-0996, Job Availability and Placement Section, Department of Labor, for assistance. You will be amazed to know what we can do for you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Poverty wages for college graduates

To the people of the Northern Mariana Islands: I am a teacher in the public school system on Saipan. I teach high school. My interactions with students include encouraging each and every one of my seniors to go on to college and graduate in order to get a good job and to be a contributory part of our island workforce and to our society. Our society thrives on a well-paid work force. People need to make a competitive salary in order to buy goods and services, which stimulate our economy through spending.

Educators and parents alike promise our children that a college education is mandatory and that having a college education will lead to personal success and will enhance the quality of our society. Today, this promise has been compromised and for the most part, *it has been broken*.

Upon examination of the help wanted ads that have been placed

in the two leading newspapers on Saipan of late, it has been noted that employers here on Saipan are way out of touch with reality. For example, a recent help wanted ad that was run called for a degreed, professional accountant. The ad stated that the applicant must have a four-year college degree in accounting, must have six years experience in corporate accounting, tax return experience, and *must* have a CPA license.

The cost of a college education today is expensive (\$30,000 to \$50,000). A CPA designation is difficult to obtain and again is expensive. Coupled with the experience required for this job makes this a highly professional position. The employer stated that they were paying an insulting \$6 per hour!

When I shared this information with my class, my students were outraged and shocked upon learning the awful truth of the

job market on Saipan. My students asked, "Why do we need to go to college?" Six dollars per hour for a college graduate is criminal. This greedy way of treating people who are in the workforce is undermining our society and creating an atmosphere of distrust among our young people. This island needs professional people who stay on Saipan. With employers paying slave wages like this, our young people will leave Saipan and will *never return*... and rightly so!

Is this what we want for our young people? "Slave wages," no opportunities, no ownership of anything due to poverty pay levels? Our young people have every right to be angry...and they should be.

These employer abuses are breaking down the value and the promises of a college degree to our young people. This *must* change. If our young people do not attend and graduate from college, our society will further deteriorate. We cannot let this happen. This would be truly tragic.






Brian Rogets

Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 88° ▼ 75°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Windy	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

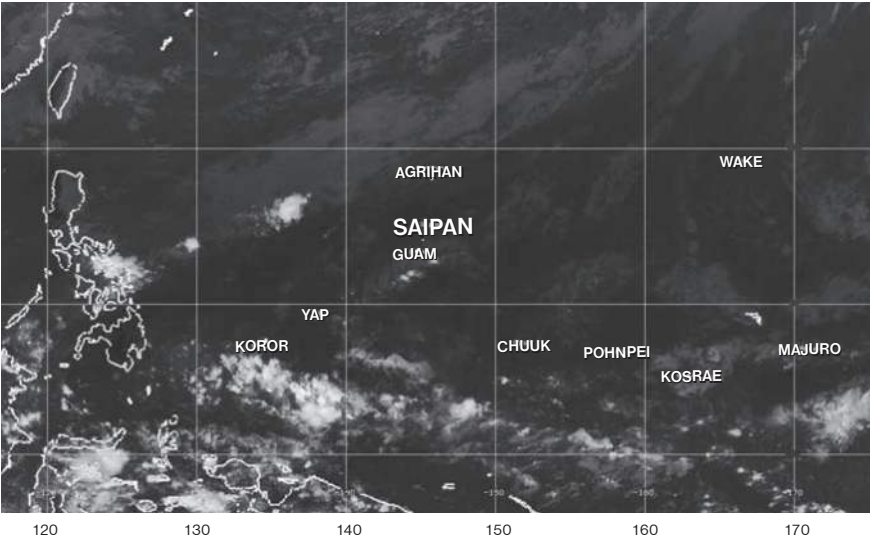
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 60
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 46
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 65
Miami	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 66
New York	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 33
Osaka	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 48
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 47
Rome	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 46
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 37

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from just south of Minami Tori Shima at 25N157E to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of the shear line. Another shear line extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N164E to 18N160E to finally end southwest of Guam at 10N142E. Clouds and patchy showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of this shear line. Several of these showers are situated just southeast of Guam. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 1N130E to 3N160E to 1N175E. Convergent low-level winds on the north side of the trough are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Koror between 6N and 1N from 134E to 140E southwest of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 4N140E to 3N149E and across Butaritari and Tarawa Atolls within 100 miles of a line from 2N172E to 5N176E. A circulation is centered east of Wake Island at 19N176E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present between 15N and 25N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:08 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	8:08 AM	7:54 PM
Sunday	9:02 AM	8:55 PM
Monday	9:52 AM	9:53 PM
Tuesday	10:37 AM	10:48 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3	OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7108	4:05am	5:55am	1, 3, 5	MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM
				UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

The shady San Nicolas

I just finished watching San Nicolas, the Attorney General for the CNMI, on KSPN News. I was not impressed. In fact, I was dismayed. But I was dismayed when Governor Fitial picked him, so my dismay is greater.

To begin, San Nicolas worked and lived in Guam for a year. A year he was supposed to be living and working here. For him, and others, to say that he maintained a house here, and voted

here, does not cut it. One has to be *present*, and San Nicolas was in Guam. He was, therefore, not eligible for the AG's office. He was not physically present in the CNMI.

On the Buckingham extradition, San Nicolas waffled on camera. When he did this, I knew in my gut the die was cast, the fix was in, and the jig was up. Didn't matter that Kilili Sablan, and three members

of the Legislature had written letters in support of Buckingham's extradition. San Nicolas is Fitial's minion; it is clear to me. He will never extradite Buckingham, despite the smooth talk to Tina Sablan on camera. San Nicolas has mastered the art of "shuck and jive" and Tina is too nice to throw fastballs at his head.

It is times like these I think of Attorney Gerry Spence. He

would clench his fists and pound them on the desk, he was so opposed to wrongdoing. He had fire in his belly for justice and he pursued it with vigor. He made people jump and take notice!

There is no vigor with San Nicolas. Instead, we get slow, measured statements. No fire, nothing to suggest outrage.

When asked about prior murder cases, such as Emie Romero, or, most recently, the savagely

murdered couple in San Vicente, we got more measured statement, meant to placate viewers. No outrage, no anger, no "We are gonna find the perps and nail them to the wall!"

No, we get a prolonged yawn in speech form.

In sum, San Nicolas is no good. Despite the rhetoric, despite the assurances, he is still Fitial's puppy. He appears to care more about his image than

justice. And this is damning.

We need someone with fire, someone good and hot and with a taste for real justice. Right now, with San Nicolas, we have tepid bath water. He needs to either shape up, and pursue cases with vigor, or resign from the office he was never qualified to get in the first place.

Russ Mason
Oleai, Saipan

Amusing

Because I do not have a ghost writer on my payroll I will be brief. For the sake of anyone that might have taken the time to read Rep. Stanley Torres' completely predictable rant against me in last week's newspaper, I would like to offer the following correction. Contrary to what Rep. Torres stated, I was not "kicked out of the Zoning Board." Zoning board members are limited to serve a maximum of three two-year

terms for a total of six years as per Public Law 7-41, Section 2, 2 CMC section 7221(f). I served for six years. I was legally unable to serve any longer. End of story. Unlike Rep. Torres I have never been kicked out of anything. For him to attempt to flatter himself by suggesting that he was responsible for my departure is amusing.

Herminia M. Fusco
Capitol Hill, Saipan

RELIGION

From Page 10

Even some believers have grown weary of seeing their brethren closely align their tradition with a party. Jim Denison, a Southern Baptist minister who heads the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture, reflected this when he wrote last week on the *Dallas Morning News'* Texas Faith blog: "If conservative churches would tell our culture what God's word says about our moral issues, leaving the Republican Party to deal with political challenges through political means, both would be better served."

Some evangelicals have even started rethinking wheth-

er they've confused biblical absolutes and political principles. Robert Jeffress, pastor of Dallas' First Baptist Church, recently wrote: "We must differentiate between biblical absolutes and political preferences. ...Acknowledging the need for governmental health-care reform does not necessarily pave the way for the rule of the Antichrist."

To be sure, candidates in 2016 and beyond will speak of their faith. Part of this is to relate to Americans, for whom religion remains important. But maybe this rethinking will help both religion and politics. They belong together, but candidates especially need to reconsider how they talk about the intersection.

What gives?

Today is 12/14/12, and there's only 10 days left before 12/25/2012, which is a Christmas Day. Defined benefit members have plans. They are very eager and anxious to have their 25 percent refund from their contributions owed. They are patiently waiting and hoping to use their monies to purchase

Christmas gifts for their children and loved ones.

What gives? In the first place, it appears that the hold in payment of refunds did not have any correlation in extending the matter to the federal court because some agencies did not fully satisfy the employer/employee contributions to the NMIRF as this

may be the case. This is a local matter and therefore it should be taken locally, which I do not see any problems because DB members are only getting 25 percent, not 100 percent of their contributions at this time.

DB members have their fiduciary rights to getting paid as soon as possible, otherwise the

joy and happiness for the holidays will be a loss for many of the islands' families.

Go for it and make the refund payments now! Have the people "enjoy the spirit of the island Christmas holidays!"

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ARC STAFF

Three fires in 3 days, Red Cross is ready

In three days, the American Red Cross responded to three fires, all within two miles of each other. The first fire occurred on Sunday, Dec. 2, in Chalan Piao. The blaze destroyed a couple's home and slightly damaged a neighboring structure. The next day, as ARC volunteers finished up their casework on that incident, a second fire broke out less than a mile away. The third fire happened on Tuesday, Dec. 4, in San Antonio. Red Cross Volunteers Joe Jetnil, Dave Bucher, Josiah Kyonka, Lupe Sabino, Juan Atalig, and Claudine Atalig responded to the fires. They assisted the victims by providing them with immediate, emergency needs such as shelter, clothing, food, beddings, hygiene items, and cleanup kits.

Joe Jetnil and Claudine Atalig recently returned from a three-week assignment in New Jersey, where they assisted victims of Hurricane Sandy.

"As soon as they got off the plane they were back in action to assist people in need," said J.D. Tenorio, emergency services director for the NMI Chapter, "only this time it was at home."

For more information or how to volunteer to become a Disaster Action Team member, contact the local chapter at 234-3459. (ARC Staff)



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NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations Michael Lilles and Nhorleen Bitco on your 12-12-12 wedding at the Kanoa Resort, Saipan. Greetings come from your friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**UOG NCLEX review course orientation**

The University of Guam offers a comprehensive NCLEX review course designed for individuals who have completed a Registered Nurse program but who have not taken the NCLEX-RN examination. Interested individuals must attend the orientation session today, Dec. 14 at 10am in Room 229, UOG Health Science Building, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, UOG Campus. The course will begin March 2 and run through August 2013 and will be taught by masters or doctorate level nursing faculty. (UOG)

Air Force, Marine Corps training at Warning Area 517, FDM

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 14 from 7am to noon, and on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 14-15 from 7am to 10pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Progress reports for Kagman schools

For all Kagman schools (Kagman High School, ChaCha Jr. High, and Kagman Elementary School), the North East Cluster Schools' Joint Progress Report is set for release on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012. All Kagman schools will have a half-day schedule; dismissal is at 12:45pm.

All teachers from Kagman High School and ChaCha Jr. High School will gather at Kagman Elementary School to distribute the second quarter progress reports on Dec. 19, 2012, from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Teachers will be prepared to give out their contact information (e-mail or work phone) at this event so that parents can make appointments to talk more about a child's progress and follow up from this December meeting.

Kagman High School will distribute progress reports not picked up on Dec. 19 at the GTC Elementary School on Thursday, Dec. 20, from 2pm to 4:30pm or at Tanapag Elementary School on Friday, Dec. 21 from 2pm to 4:30pm. This will allow families in the north access to their high school student's progress report if they cannot make it on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

For more information, call the KHS main office at 664-3840, COJHS at 664-4100, or KES at 664-3911. (PR)

Yvette Bennett is crowned Miss Idaho US International

Yvette Marie Deleon Guerrero Bennett, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, was recently crowned the 2013 Miss Idaho U.S. International titleholder. She will go on to compete against other state delegates at the national 2013 Miss U.S. International pageant in Orlando, Florida.

Bennett is the first beauty contestant from the CNMI to capture a state level beauty title in the mainland.

For the next year, Bennett will represent the state of Idaho at the Miss U.S. International pageant. The winner of the Miss U.S. International pageant will go on to compete against 70 other women from their respective countries at the international finals held in Okinawa, Japan next fall.

"It felt amazing, it was so much of a surprise, and it is a real opportunity to show my abilities and potential as a title holder. I felt that all my hard work had been vindicated and this was a well-earned recognition. It also inspired me to work even harder on my walk, my interview, [and] my wardrobe to grab another even bigger opportunity," said Bennett. "My title as Miss Idaho International has put me in an even better position as a role model and advocate for the youth of our nation to live a better and healthier lifestyle."

"Having the support of my family, friends and the community back home means a great deal to me and I must thank everyone who has supported me back home, especially the social media spreading the word around as it has been a lot of motivation for me to continue participating in

these pageant competitions."

Bennett's father, Ambrose, said: "My wife and I are hopeful the entire CNMI is truly as proud as we are of our daughter and thank all of you who supported our baby girl."

Yvette Bennett is now working to get the financial support for her entrance fee and her wardrobe for the national competition. Those who are willing to be one of Yvette Bennett's sponsors may contact Lilianne

or Ambrose Bennett at (670) 256-6602 or you can stop at any First Hawaiian Bank and make a deposit of any amount in Yvette M. Deleon Guerrero Bennett's account and email her the amount you deposited so your name will be on her list of sponsors. (PR)

Yvette Marie Bennett is crowned 2013 Miss Idaho U.S. International.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Business

US economy could withstand brief fall off 'cliff'

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's the scenario that's been spooking employers and investors and slowing the U.S. economy:

Congress and the White House fail to strike a budget deal by New Year's Day. Their stalemate triggers sharp tax increases and spending cuts. Those measures shrink consumer spending, stifle job growth, topple stock prices and push the economy off a "fiscal cliff" and into recession.

The reality may be a lot less bleak.

Even if New Year's passed with no deal, few businesses or

consumers would likely panic as long as an agreement seemed likely soon. The tax increases and spending cuts could be retroactively repealed after Jan. 1.

And the impact of the tax increases would be felt only gradually. Most people would receive slightly less money in each paycheck.

"The simple conclusion that going off the cliff necessarily means a recession next year is wrong," says Lewis Alexander, an economist at Nomura Securities. "It will ultimately depend on how long the policies are in place."

It's always possible that negotiations between President Barack Obama and Republican congressional leaders will collapse in acrimony. The prospect of permanent tax increases and spending cuts could cause many consumers and businesses to delay spending, hiring or expanding.

But most economists expect a deal, if not by New Year's then soon after. Businesses and consumers will likely remain calm as long as negotiators seem to be moving toward an agreement.

"The atmosphere is more important than whether the talks

spill" into next year, said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

Here's why many are optimistic that a brief fall over the cliff wouldn't derail the economic recovery:

■ Though the fiscal cliff would cost the economy an estimated \$671 billion for all of 2013, the tax hit for most people would be slight at first. The expiration of Social Security and income tax cuts would be spread throughout 2013. For taxpayers with incomes of \$40,000 to \$65,000, paychecks would shrink an average of about \$1,500 next year

but an average of just \$130 in January, according to the non-partisan Tax Policy Center.

■ About a third of the tax increases wouldn't touch most Americans. Some would hit businesses. Others, such as higher taxes on investment income and estates, and the expiration of middle-income tax credits, wouldn't come due until Americans filed their 2013 taxes in 2014.

■ If a deal seemed imminent, some experts say the Internal Revenue Service could delay the increased tax withholding that's due to kick in. Without a deal, the top income tax rate

for single people with taxable income between about \$36,000 and \$88,000 would rise from 25 percent to 28 percent. A delay in the increased withholding would ease the initial tax hit.

■ About \$85 billion in spending cuts to defense and domestic programs would take weeks or longer to take effect. That means government agencies wouldn't cut jobs right away.

Still, if budget talks dragged on, many businesses might put off investment or hiring. That's why most economists say it would be crucial to reach a deal within roughly the first two months of 2013.



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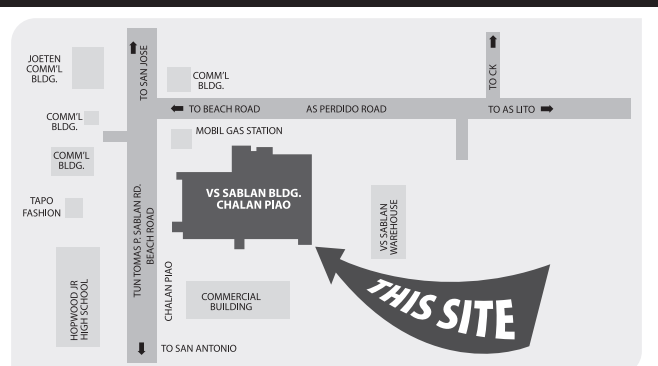
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Nation

Census: Whites no longer a majority in US by 2043

WASHINGTON (AP)—White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043, according to new census projections. That's part of a historic shift that already is reshaping the nation's schools, workforce and electorate, and is redefining long-held notions of race.

The official projection,

released Wednesday by the Census Bureau, now places the tipping point for the white majority a year later than previous estimates, which were made before the impact of the recent economic downturn was fully known.

America continues to grow and become more diverse due

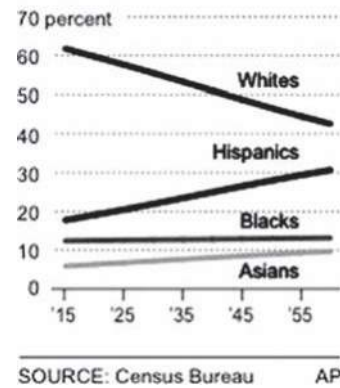
to higher birth rates among minorities, particularly for Hispanics who entered the U.S. at the height of the immigration boom in the 1990s and early 2000s. Since the mid-2000 housing bust, however, the arrival of millions of new immigrants from Mexico and other nations has slowed from its once-torrid pace.

The country's changing demographic mosaic has stark political implications, shown clearly in last month's election that gave President Barack Obama a second term—in no small part due to his support from 78 percent of non-white voters.

There are social and economic ramifications, as well. Long-standing fights over civil rights and racial equality are going in new directions, promising to reshape race relations and common notions of being a "minority." White plaintiffs now before the Supreme Court argue that special protections for racial and ethnic minorities dating

Projections

White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043. Projected population by race and hispanic origin:



back to the 1960s may no longer be needed, from affirmative action in college admissions to the Voting Rights Act, designed for states with a history of disenfranchising blacks.

Residential segregation has eased and intermarriage for first- and second-generation Hispanics and Asians is on the rise, blurring racial and ethnic lines and lifting the numbers of people who identify as multiracial. Unpublished 2010 census data show that millions of people shunned standard race categories such as black or white on government forms, opting to write in their own cultural or individual identities.

Police: Ore. mall shooter used stolen rifle

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Gunfire rang out in the mall food court, instantly transforming a casual afternoon of holiday shopping into a nightmare. The shooter, armed with a rifle, was dressed in dark clothing and wore a hockey-style face mask.

As panicked shoppers fled for cover, workers ushered some into hiding places within stores, or helped them to the exits. The first officers to arrive formed groups and rushed into the chaos, rather than waiting for the more heavily armed SWAT team.

"If we would have run out, we would have ran right into it," said Kaelynn Keelin, who saw a

window get shot out and, along with other Made In Oregon co-workers, pulled customers into the store for shelter.



Roberts

The quick mobilization of mall workers and police reflects the reality that, while mass shootings are rare, they have forced authorities to rehearse for such outbreaks of violence as if they are the norm.

"This could have been much, much worse," Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts said.

Roughly 10,000 people were inside the Clackamas Town Center on Tuesday afternoon, when police say Jacob Tyler Roberts, 22, armed himself with an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle he stole from someone he knew,

and went on a rampage that left two people dead.

The sheriff said the rifle jammed during the attack, but the shooter managed to get it working again. He later shot himself. The sheriff and Roberts are not related.

As authorities tried to determine a motive for a shooting they said had no specific targets, details emerged about Roberts from acquaintances and neighbors. They described him as relaxed, friendly and outgoing.

"He was like a rapper. He would rap all the time," said Samantha Bennett, who said she went to middle school with Roberts but wasn't close to him until he moved in with a girlfriend across the hall from her at an apartment complex in summer 2011.

Anti-virus software developer McAfee arrives in US

MIAMI (AP)—Anti-virus software founder John McAfee arrived in the U.S. on Wednesday night after being deported from Guatemala, where he had sought to evade police questioning in the killing of a man in neighboring Belize.

The American Airlines commercial jet carrying McAfee landed in Miami shortly before 7 p.m., said Miami International Airport spokesman Greg Chin.

A short time later, a post-

ing on McAfee's website announced that he was at a hotel in Miami's upscale South Beach neighborhood. He said he arrived by taxi after a group of customs or immigration agents, he didn't know which, escorted him to an airport taxi stand. McAfee has frequently communicated through the website.

"I have no phone, no money, no contact information," the post said. Reached by telephone at the hotel, the 67-year-old

McAfee told an AP reporter that he couldn't talk because he was waiting for a call from his girlfriend, 20-year-old Belizean Samantha Vanegas.

Vanegas had accompanied him when he was on the run, but did not go with him to the U.S.

On a blog he has been posting for the past two weeks, McAfee wrote, "I have been forcibly separated from Sam," but claimed she would be coming to the United States later.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW13-IFB-001

RENOVATION OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OFFICES, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of the Health Information Technology Program Offices, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 14, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on January 03, 2013, 1:30 p.m. local time at the CHC Gift Shop at Old CHC Building. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 08, 2013 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW13-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 17, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 17, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 17, 2013 and must be received no later than January 28, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, January 29, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on January 17, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, in certified check, Cashier's Check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit under penalty of perjury:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at two hundred dollars (US\$200.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/**VICENTE B. CASTRO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/**HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/**JUAN N. BABAUTA**
CEO, Commonwealth Health Center Corporation

US hesitant in condemning North Korean launch

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is drawing no “red line” for North Korea after a successful long-range rocket test, tempering the public condemnation to avoid raising tensions or possibly rewarding the reclusive communist nation with too much time in the global spotlight.

The U.S. has told the world that it won't tolerate Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons or Syria's use of chemical stockpiles on rebels. North Korea, in some ways, is a trickier case.

The U.S. wants to forcefully condemn what it believes is a “highly provocative act,” and that was the first public reaction from the White House late Tuesday. But it also is mindful of the turmoil on the Korean peninsula and treading carefully, offering no threat of military action or unspecified “consequences” associated with other hot spots.

Just two years ago, the North allegedly torpedoed a South Korean warship and shelled a South Korean island. Some 50 South Koreans died in the attacks that brought the peninsula to the brink of war.

North Korea already has the deterrent of a nuclear weapons arsenal. The U.S. is bound to protect next-door South Korea from any attack, but has no desire now for a military conflict.

Raising the rhetoric can even serve as a reward for seeking

attention to a government that starves its own citizens while seeking to leverage any military advance it makes into much-needed aid.

“No doubt Pyongyang is pleased. It again has unsettled its leading adversaries. And it is in the news around the world,” said Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute. “The allies should have responded with a collective yawn. After all, the plan is nothing new. The DPRK has been testing rockets and missiles for years.”

The United States remains technically at war with the notoriously unpredictable North Koreans, whose opaque leadership has confounded successive American administrations. With no peace agreement, only the 1953 armistice ending the Korean War keeps the U.S. and the North from hostilities. Some 28,500 U.S. troops remain in South Korea to deter potential aggression.

Wednesday's surprising, successful launch raises the stakes, taking North Korea one step closer to being capable of lobbing nuclear bombs over the Pacific. As the North refines its technology, its next step may be conducting another nuclear test, experts warn.

The three-stage rocket is similar in design to a model capable of carrying a nuclear-tipped warhead as far as California.

Despite its technological advances and military bluster, it's doubtful that the North intends to strike first against the U.S.

Even so, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the U.S. has the capability to prevent such a strike.

“I'm very confident that American defense capabilities are able, no problem, to block a rocket like this one,” Panetta told CNN in an interview Wednesday when asked about the capability of U.S. missile defense systems.

North Korea has spent decades threatening but avoiding a direct confrontation with the tens of thousands of American forces in South Korea and Japan. The government has remained firmly in power despite a drought-plagued agricultural sector that leaves many North Koreans in search of food and a crumbling economy that affords few any chance of social betterment.

“It is regrettable that the leadership in Pyongyang chose to take this course in flagrant violation of its international obligations,” White House press secretary Jay Carney told reporters. He said the U.S. would try to further isolate North Korea in response.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland called the launch “highly provocative and a threat to regional security.” It will only further impoverish North Koreans, she said.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-0014-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Preventive Maintenance for the Loading Bridges of the International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the loading bridges for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, **November 28, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the RFP shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **“Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance for the Loading Bridges**. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) financial resources (2) price, (3) technical experience, and (4) sufficiency of workers.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, and Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., **December 14, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director's Office at (670)234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA Further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**
Executive Director

Date: 11/27/2012



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Forten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-003

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE III, SAIPAN, CM-NH-0031(016)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase III, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **\$70-30.3-305** of the Procurement Regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, “Local Business Preference”, as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

Any corporation or partnership “firm” must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (**COA**) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **December 7, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building Highway Office Saipan.

A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **December 27, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **January 14, 2013**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) – **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) – **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) – **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) – **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **“DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-003”**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **January 17, 2013**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **January 17, 2013** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 17, 2013** and must be received no later than **January 29, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **VICENTE B. CASTRO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Asia

NKorea hails launch despite risk of consequences

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea, though struggling to feed its people, is now one of the few countries to have successfully launched a satellite into space from its own soil. But leaders in Washington, Seoul and Tokyo immediately pushed for consequences over a rocket launch widely seen as a test that takes the country one step closer to being capable of lobbing nuclear bombs over the Pacific.

The surprising, successful

launch of a three-stage rocket similar in design to a model capable of carrying a nuclear-tipped warhead as far as California — raises the stakes in the international standoff over North Korea's expanding atomic arsenal. As Pyongyang refines its technology, its next step may be conducting its third nuclear test, experts warn.

The U.N. Security Council, which has punished North Korea repeatedly for developing its nuclear program, condemned

Wednesday's launch and said it will urgently consider "an appropriate response." The White House called the launch a "highly provocative act that threatens regional security," and even the North's most important ally, China, expressed regret.

In Pyongyang, however, pride over the scientific advancement outweighed the fear of greater international isolation and punishment. North Koreans clinked beer mugs and danced in the streets to celebrate.

35 Filipino fishermen adrift since typhoon rescued

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Low-flying search planes spotted three Filipino fishermen drifting at sea and flashing mirrors to signal for help, as authorities stepped up the search for 261 others missing more than a week after a typhoon killed hundreds in the southern Philippines.

Indonesia sent a ship to join the search for the fishermen, who may have been swept toward the Celebes Sea from the Pacific Ocean off southern Mindanao Island, said regional military spokesman Capt. Severino David.

A total of 35 fishermen have been rescued in the past three

days, including three found Tuesday in a small boat drifting about 255 kilometers (158 miles) east of Davao Oriental province, where the typhoon made landfall Dec. 4, David said Wednesday.

Low-flying search planes spotted them and gave their locations to rescue ships. Although weak and dehydrated, some were still able to signal to the planes using mirrors, David said.

"The typhoon caught up with them, and they may have lost their way and ran out of fuel," he said.

The more than 300 tuna fishermen were about 220 kilome-

ters (120 nautical miles) east of Davao Oriental province as early as October. Typhoon Bopha's top winds of 210 kilometers (131 miles) per hour apparently made it difficult for them to return to shore.

The storm killed at least 740 people, many as floods swept through mountainous southern towns of the archipelago. Nearly 900 people are missing, including the fishermen.

Rescuers recovered at least four bodies from the sea and continued to find remains buried under mud and rubble in the worst-hit farming province of Compostela Valley and in flood-ravaged coastal towns.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

Public Notice
Request for Qualifications
For the Provision of Mechanical Engineering Services

RFQ13-GOV-028

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Commonwealth") are requesting qualifications ("RFQ") for the provision of mechanical engineering consulting services for the inspection, evaluation, and recommendation concerning the heating ventilating and air conditioning equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center ("CHC").

The Scope of Work associated with RFQ13-GOV-028 is available from the Office of Capital Improvement at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 (670) 664-2375. Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on three factors as identified in the table below.

Proposal Element	Ranking
Experience of the individuals who would be assigned to the project	60%
Proposed approach	40%

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 28, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). All proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ13-GOV-028 Healthcare Consulting Proposal in the required format and must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 08, 2013 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid ("Notice of Intent to Bid"). Notices of Intent to submit qualifications must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 08, 2013 (ChST), and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For firms located outside the CNMI, the submission must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Tuesday, January 08, 2013 and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., January 17, 2013 (ChST).

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

Holiday Season 2012

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December 12, 2012 - January 01, 2013

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SAIPAN 664-9001/2 • TINIAN 433-9222 • ROTA 532-9433



World

Official: Syria fires Scud missiles at rebels

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Syrian government forces have fired Scud missiles at insurgents in recent days, escalating the 2-year-old conflict against rebels seeking to overthrow the regime, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, two officials said forces of President Bashar Assad have fired the missiles from the Damascus area into northern Syria. These officials asked not to be named because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

News of the missiles came on the same day that more than 100 countries, including the United

States, recognized a new Syrian opposition coalition. That has further isolated Assad's regime and opened a way for greater humanitarian assistance to the forces battling to oust him.

One official said there was no indication that chemical weapons were aboard the missiles. Officials have said over the past week that they feared rebel advances were prompting Assad to consider using chemical weapons.

This official estimated that the number of Scuds fired was more than a half dozen, confirming details first reported by The New York Times.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Assad has fired missiles, but wouldn't specify what kind.

"As the regime becomes more and more desperate, we see it resorting to increased lethality and more vicious weapons moving forward and we have in recent days seen missiles deployed," she said.

White House press secretary Jay Carney, speaking to reporters, said he could not confirm the report, but said if true it would be a sign of desperation.

"The idea that the Syrian regime would launch missiles, within its borders, at its own

people, is stunning, desperate and a completely disproportionate military escalation," Carney said.

The new development happened as officials planned an international conference to further assist opposition to Assad.

"This is the usual pattern of behavior that whenever there is an important decision that is anti-Assad taken by the international community, the Assad regime escalates the degree of violence to show its degree of displeasure," said Murhaf Joueji, a specialist on Syrian affairs at the National Defense University. "Like saying, 'Oh, yeah? I'll show you!'"

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt's opposition urges 'no' vote in referendum

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's opposition called on its followers Wednesday to vote "no" in a crucial referendum on a disputed constitution drafted by Islamist supporters of President Mohammed Morsi. The decision came as Morsi's government forged ahead with its own plan, starting overseas voting in diplomatic missions for expatriates. The moves reinforced the atmosphere of a nation in crisis, deeply divided over whether Egypt might move toward Islamic theocracy or retain its secular traditions. More opposition protests were planned, judges remained on strike and there were concerns of further economic disarray after Egypt delayed a \$4.8 billion IMF loan needed to revive the economy. Wednesday's call for a "no" vote followed a prolonged debate within the opposition over whether to boycott the referendum—a threat that still hung in the air as the anti-Morsi camp laid down its conditions for participation.

Government: Chavez may not be well by inauguration

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The government warned Venezuelans on Wednesday that ailing President Hugo Chavez may not be well enough after his fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba to be inaugurated on Jan. 10. Moving to prepare the public for the possibility of more bad news, Vice President Nicolas Maduro looked grim earlier in the day when he acknowledged that Chavez

faced a "complex and hard" process after his latest surgery. At the same time, officials strove to show a united front amid the growing worries about Chavez's health and the country's future. Key leaders of Chavez's party and military officers appearing together on television as Maduro took the lead in giving updates on Chavez's condition. "We're more united than ever," said Maduro, who was flanked by National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello and Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez, both key members of Chavez's inner circle. "We're united in loyalty to Chavez."

Argentines shocked by verdicts in sex slave trial

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The acquittal of 13 people accused in the disappearance of a young woman who was allegedly kidnapped and forced into prostitution for "VIP clients" spread shock and outrage across Argentina on Wednesday, prompting street protests and calls by political leaders to impeach the three judges who delivered the verdict. Many called the ruling a setback for Argentina's efforts to combat sex trafficking, which began largely as a result of Susana Trimarco's one-woman, decade-long quest to find her missing daughter, Maria de los Angeles "Marita" Veron. Her attorneys said she would pursue appeals. Trimarco's search exposed an underworld of organized crime figures who operate brothels with protection from authorities across Argentina. Security Minister Nilda Garre called the verdict "a tremendous slap in the face for the prospect of justice."

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DECEMBER 19, 2012 • 4:00PM – 9:30PM**

ACTIVITIES:

- Massage ●
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Ayuda Network, Inc.
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ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org



Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2012 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed Campaign Statement of Account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified Statement by **December 26, 2012**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **\$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, December 17, 2012 – 9am to 4:30pm
Tuesday, December 18, 2012 – 9am to 12:00pm

Tinian:
Tinian Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Thursday, December 20, 2012 – 9am to 4:30pm

Off The Wall

Americans finding dozens of ways to mark 12-12-12

By **BRIDGET MURPHY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Michigan sixth-grader will put aside her nerves and get her ears pierced on her 12th birthday. Two law-enforcement officials will exchange wedding vows at 12:12 p.m. in Pittsburgh's federal courthouse. And gamblers can take advantage of promotions some casinos are using to lure in patrons who want to test their luck.

With the once-a-century date, some people across the United States are betting on good fortune for 12-12-12.

In New England, Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut will offer \$12 in free slots play to rewards cards members who sink \$12 into the slots.

A southwestern Michigan casino is also betting that 12-12-12 is going to be a lucky day for opening its new hotel. A ribbon-cutting is planned for 12:12 p.m. Wednesday for the eight-story, 242-room hotel at FireKeepers Casino near Battle Creek.

Hours later, Anna Gandy, of Battle Creek, Mich., will head to the Lakeview Square Mall after school lets out. She realized last year that she would turn 12

on 12-12-12, her father, Bryan Gandy, said Tuesday. But between her sports team commitments and nerves, Anna decided to wait until Wednesday to get her ears pierced.

"She's been looking forward to it for a year," her dad said of the special birthday. "She obviously likes the number 12."

Fans of some of music's biggest names will feel lucky to see them share a stage Wednesday in New York's Madison Square Garden. The charity show for Superstorm Sandy victims has been dubbed the "12-12-12" concert and will include Bruce

Springsteen and the E Street Band, Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, the Who, Eric Clapton, Billy Joel, Kanye West, Alicia Keys and Bon Jovi.

For pro football fans, Wednesday's date also will carry special meaning.

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers wears No. 12, and the Wisconsin state Legislature has designated the day Aaron Rodgers Day in honor of the Super Bowl winner and last year's MVP. Some businesses are encouraging employees to wear Rodgers jerseys and make \$12 donations to a charity fund.

And in honor of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who also wears No. 12, his team is planning a series of events, offering free admittance to its interactive museum in the 12 o'clock hour and discounts at its shop—12 percent off, naturally. The team's Facebook post had more than 12,000 likes in its first hour.

According to Vicki MacKinnon, who practices numerology, the study of the occult significance of numbers, Wednesday's date represents two energies

merging, including masculine and feminine energies.

MacKinnon, of Calgary, Alberta, author of "Please Take a Number: Numerology for Real Life and Everyday Success," said Tuesday that those kinds of energy are good news for couples planning to marry on 12-12-12.

Among them are Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Johnson and Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Allen. A federal judge in Pittsburgh will marry the couple at 12:12 p.m. as they exchange 12-word vows.

Vatican: World not ending, despite Maya prediction

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican's top astronomer has some assurances to offer: The world won't be ending in 10 days, despite predictions to the contrary.

The Rev. Jose Funes, director

of the Vatican Observatory, wrote in Wednesday's Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano that "it's not even worth discussing" doomsday scenarios based on the Mayan calendar that are flooding the Internet ahead of the

purported Dec. 21 apocalypse.

Yes, Funes wrote, the universe is expanding and if some models are correct, will at one point "break away"—but not for billions of years. But he said Christians profoundly believe that "death can

never have the last word."

The Mayan Long Count calendar begins in 3,114 B.C., marking time in roughly 394-year periods known as Baktuns. The Mayans wrote that the significant 13th Baktun ends Dec. 21.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ariz. home: 'Ditto' to neighbor's Christmas lights

MARICOPA, Ariz. (AP)—An Arizona woman who knew she couldn't compete head on with her neighbor's elaborate Christmas light display is attracting attention for her response. Using red and green lights, Kristina Green of Maricopa spelled out the word "ditto" and made an arrow pointing toward her neighbor's home. KNXV-TV reports that Green's display is made of around 600 lights. Her neighbor's set-up has about 16,000 colorful lights. Green has created a Facebook page for her "ditto" sign. Last year, a family

in Beaverton, Ore., also erected the word "Ditto" with an arrow on the side of their own home toward a neighbor's house as part of an online movement.

9 Maine students suspended over pot-laced cookies

CAPE ELIZABETH, Maine (AP)—Marijuana-laced cookies taken by a student to a Maine high school on a day ethics and values were being discussed have sickened some classmates. Nine students have been suspended, and police are investigating. Cape Elizabeth schools superintendent Meredith Nadeau says it's unclear if all the students

who ate the cookies were aware they contained marijuana. Some of them felt ill and went to the nurse's office. The Portland Press Herald reported Monday the episode unfolded Friday during a daylong event featuring speakers addressing the school district's guiding values of "Community, Academics, Passion and Ethics." School policy calls for a student who distributes or sells drugs to be suspended for 10 days and face possible expulsion.

Russian premier jokes about secret files on aliens

MOSCOW (AP)—"Men in Black" agents K and J may be

about to recruit a new Russian assistant: Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Medvedev has spoken about top secret files on aliens that may have landed in Russia. In footage recorded Friday after a television interview, the former president joked that each Russian leader gets two folders with information about extraterrestrials that visited our planet—and stayed here. Unseen on camera footage, he is heard telling a Ren TV journalist he could not tell "how many of them are among us, because it may cause panic." He said more details could be found in Barry Sonnenfeld's "Men in Black" films.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN]	CIVIL
MARIANAS]	ACTION
HOUSING]	NO.
CORPORATION,]	11-0037
Plaintiff,]	
-v-]	SECOND
]	AMENDED
TANINA M.]	NOTICE
TAMMY,]	OF SALE
Defendant.]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 4564, situated in Kagman III, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 805 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 11, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of December, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Michael Norita Evangelista
(Bar No. F-0364)
Attorney-at-Law
Law Office of Michael Norita Evangelista, Esq.
Suite 2-C Sablan Building, Beach Road,
Chalan Kanoa
P.O. Box 5600 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel. No. 670-234-9005/6
Fax No. 670-235-9007

Attorney for Petitioner Arlette Castro Park

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS


IN RE THE]
ESTATE OF:]
AUGUSTINE]
CAMACHO CASTRO]
]
Deceased.]

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR FINAL
DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION AND
PETITION TO ADMIT WILL IN THE
PROBATE


NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Final Distribution and Petition to Admit Will in the Probate by the Executrix of the Estate of Augustine Camacho Castro (Deceased), was filed in the above entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in **Courtroom #223 A** of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice – Guma Hustisia – Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at **1:30 p.m. on February 5, 2013.**

SO ENTERED this 12th day of December, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-011
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-011, supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 08, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



NOTICE TO ALL SECTION 8 HCV APPLICANTS

(November 19, 2012)

Every six months, as needed, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is required to obtain current information interested Section 8 applicants and to remove applicants who are no longer interested in participating in the program or who fail to respond to a written request to update the information on their applications.

For this reason, and in accordance with Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of NMHC's Revised Administrative Plan (2007), this is to respectfully inform all Section 8 housing choice voucher program applicants that written notices will be mailed out to every applicant listed on the program's waiting list. Upon receipt of a written notice, applicants are requested and required to contact NMHC at Tel. Nos. 234-6866 or 2349447 or via email at housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to Kimo Rosario or Bryan Bocago at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan at any of the aforementioned telephone numbers or via email at phdmanager@nmhc.gov.net and bsbocago@nmhc.gov.mp, respectively.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMHC RFP 2012-008

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

To Conduct a Performance Assessment of NMHC Fiscal and Accounting Division by a CNMI Licensed Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) Firm

The Corporate Director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals from CNMI licensed CPA firms to conduct a performance assessment of NMHC's fiscal and accounting division. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-210).

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on **Monday, December 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than **Friday, December 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m.**, local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled "NMHC RFP 2012-008" for Performance Assessment of NMHC's Fiscal and Accounting Division to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 7, 2013.

The guidelines and specifications for this assessment may be picked up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI Holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone numbers (670) 234-6866/7689, fax 234-9021 or email jskaipat@nmhc.gov.net.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Admin Fees for the Section 8 Multifamily, Housing Choice Voucher, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director
Procurement & Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Science & Technology

Snap the best shots with the smartest apps

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

You may be fine with your smartphone's onboard camera software, and maybe the popular Instagram photo-edit-and-post application, but there are many alternatives to them. Here are a few.

Snapseed, a photo-editing app for Android and Apple devices from Nik Software, is now free. It used to cost \$5, but Google Inc. bought Nik this year and has tuned the app to work smoothly with the Google+ social network. Some longtime users say the heart of the app remains about as it was, and it happily posts to Facebook (which owns Instagram) and Twitter, as well as serving its new Google master.

You can copy and paste images into Snapseed, in addition to choosing to activate the camera or to pick an existing photo from your camera roll.

With a photo on the Snapseed screen, choose an editing mode from the tiled menu, and graphical instructions will overlay the photo. Changing a photo's brightness or applying another effect generally involves tapping the screen or swiping a finger across it in one direction or another until the photo looks ... just right.

Categories of effects include straightening, cropping, framing and automatic adjustments. There are lots of choices—an array that many other apps charge additional fees to enable.

KitCam is a \$1.99 iPhone app from GhostBird Software. Its advantage over the camera software your phone came with is a display of powerful tap-and-shoot features such as continuous shooting, time-lapse, multi-shot layouts, and exposure controls that will make you feel as if you're in heightened control.

Picture-altering effects on KitCam can be added at the time of shooting, rather than later. What you do is tap to pull up a selection of "lenses," screen frames or "films" for rendering your photo in sepia tones or other vintage flavors, for example. Some, but not most, of these options cost extra—it's \$1.99 for a "Fancy Lens Pack" that includes fish-eye, kaleidoscope and 3D formats.

Pope hits 1M mark as he tweets 'Dear friends. . .'

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI hit the 1 million Twitter follower mark on Wednesday as he sent his first tweet from his new account, blessing his online fans and urging them to listen to Christ.

In perhaps the most drawn out Twitter launch ever, the 85-year-old Benedict tapped the screen of a tablet brought to him at the end of his general audience after the equivalent of a papal drum roll by an announcer who intoned: "And now the pope will tweet!"

ON THE NET

Pope is at www.twitter.com/pontifex

"Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart," the inaugural tweet read.

At around the same time the message was sent, the number of followers of Benedict's (at) Pontifex accounts surpassed the 1 million mark, with all eight languages of the pope's account combined.

While the (at)Pontifex English account remains the most popular, nearing 800,000 followers, the pope is tweeting simultaneously in Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, German, Polish and Arabic. Each language has its own handle, though they're all the pope's account: (at)Pontifex-es, for Spanish for example, (at)Pontifex-it for Italian, (at)Pontifex-fr for French, and so on.



Century Insurance Co., Ltd.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GENERAL MANAGER

Bachelors Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves understanding of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

SUPERVISOR, UNDERWRITING & CLAIMS

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communications skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software Geniisys. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

CLAIMS OFFICER

College graduate with a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business Management with 10 years experience in a non-life insurance company particularly in the Claims Department. Must be knowledgeable in automotive, marine, casualty, workers compensation, and property damage adjusting and estimation. Responsible for the evaluation, monitoring and adjustment of claims in accordance with company practices and procedures. Must also be knowledgeable on reinsurance and have the ability to interpret statistical information for reinsurance purposes. Must have excellent customer service skills, time management, written and oral communication skills. Must be computer literate and proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs.

ACCOUNTANT (3)

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours. CPA not required.

SYSTEM ANALYST

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance data base and program - Geniisys and an indepth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to Century Insurance Company (CIC) office at the JP Center Building - Ground Floor on Beach Road Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Insurance Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of lading, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (6)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@ctsispn.com not later than December 21, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Life & Style

Music, comedy strike defiant tone at Sandy concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Music and comedy royalty struck a defiant tone in a benefit concert for Superstorm Sandy victims on Wednesday, asking for help to rebuild a New York metropolitan area most of them know well.

The sold-out Madison Square Garden show was televised, streamed online and aired on radio all over the world. Producers said up to 2 billion people could experience the concert live.

"When are you going to learn," comic and New Jersey native Jon Stewart said. "You can throw anything at us—terrorists, hurricanes. You can take away our giant sodas. It doesn't matter. We're coming back stronger every time."

Jersey shore hero Bruce Springsteen set a roaring tone, opening the concert with "Land of Hope and Dreams" and "Wrecking Ball." He addressed the rebuilding process in introducing his song "My City of Ruins," noting it was written about the decline of Asbury Park, New Jersey, before that city's renaissance over the past decade. What made the Jersey shore special was its inclusiveness, a place where people of all incomes and backgrounds could find a place, he said.

"I pray that that characteristic remains along the Jersey shore because that's what makes it special," Springsteen said.

He mixed a verse of Tom Waits' "Jersey Girl" into the song before calling New Jersey neighbor Jon Bon Jovi to join him in a rousing "Born to Run." Springsteen later returned the favor by joining Bon Jovi on "Who Says You Can't Go Home."

Adam Sandler hearkened back to his "Saturday Night Live" days with a ribald rewrite of the oft-sung "Hallelujah" that composer Leonard Cohen never would have dreamed. The rewritten chorus says, "Sandy, screw ya, we'll get through ya, because we're New Yorkers."

Sandler wore a New York Jets T-shirt and mined Donald Trump, Michael Bloomberg, the New York Knicks, Times Square porn and Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez for laugh lines.

The music lineup was heav-



This image released by Starpix shows Bruce Springsteen, left, and Jon Bon Jovi performing at the 12-12-12 The Concert for Sandy Relief at Madison Square Garden in New York on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012. Proceeds from the show will be distributed through the Robin Hood Foundation.

ily weighted toward classic rock, which has the type of fans able to afford a show for which ticket prices ranged from \$150 to \$2,500. Even with those prices, people with tickets have been offering them for more on broker sites such as StubHub, an attempt at profiteering that producers fumed was "despicable."

"This has got to be the largest collection of old English musicians ever assembled in Madison Square Garden," Rolling Stones rocker Mick Jagger said. "If it rains in London, you've got to come and help us."

In fighting trim for a series of 50th anniversary concerts in the New York area, the Stones ripped through "You've Got Me Rockin'" and "Jumping Jack Flash" before beating a quick retreat—perhaps not to upstage their own upcoming Pay-Per-View show. Actor Steve Buscemi later made light of that, saying producers made room for him by cutting the Stones short. "I said, 'if they play more than two songs, I'm out of here.'"

Jagger wasn't in New York City for Sandy, but he said in an interview before the concert that his apartment was flooded

with 2 feet of water.

The Who weaved Sandy into their set, showing pictures of storm devastation on video screens during "Pinball Wizard." Pete Townshend made a quick revision to the lyrics of "Baba O'Riley," changing "teenage wasteland" to "Sandy wasteland."

New York native Alicia Keys asked the audience to hold their cell phones high for her song, "No One," triggering a sea of light that is the modern version of an earlier generation's holding cigarette lighters in the air. "We love you," Keys said, "and we'll make it through this."

She didn't perform "Empire State of Mind," however, leaving untouched this century's most indelible song about her hometown.

Eric Clapton switched from acoustic to electric guitar and sang "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out" and "Crossroads." New York was a backdrop for Clapton's personal tragedy, when his young son died after falling out of a window.

Roger Waters played a set of Pink Floyd's spacey rock, joined by Eddie Vedder for "Comfortably Numb." Waters stuck to the

music and left the fundraising to others.

"Can't chat," he said, "because we only have 30 minutes."

The sold-out "12-12-12" concert was being shown on 37 television stations in the United States and more than 200 others worldwide. It was to be streamed on 30 websites, including YouTube and Yahoo, and played on radio stations. Theaters, including 27 in the New York region and dozens more elsewhere, were showing it live.

Proceeds from the show will be distributed through the Robin Hood Foundation. More than \$30 million was raised through ticket sales alone.

The powerful storm left parts of New York City underwater and left millions of people in several states without heat or electricity for weeks. It's blamed for at least 125 deaths, including 104 in New York and New Jersey, and it destroyed or damaged 305,000 housing units in New York alone.

Other concert performers were to include Long Islander Billy Joel ("New York State of Mind.") Even Liverpool's Paul McCartney has a New York office, Hamptons home and a wife, Nancy Shevell, who spent a decade on the board of the agency that runs New York's public transit system.

Richie Sambora of Bon Jovi said his family is still affected by the storm.

"I had to hold back the tears really," he said about visiting the devastation in New Jersey. "My mom's house (in Point Pleasant, New Jersey) got trashed. They had to evacuate her. She's living with me until we fix it up."

E Street Band guitarist Steve Van Zandt said backstage that musicians are often quick to help when they can.

"Yes, it's more personal because literally the Jersey shore is where we grew up," he said. "But we'd be here anyway."

The concert came a day after the death of sitar master Ravi Shankar, a performer at the 1971 "Concert for Bangladesh" considered the grandfather of music benefits. That concert also was in Madison Square Garden.

Autopsy results on nurse in hoax due out Thursday

LONDON (AP)—The result of an autopsy on the nurse involved in a prank call for information about the former Kate Middleton's hospital stay will be revealed Thursday, London police said.

Scotland Yard said on Wednesday the cause of Jacintha Saldanha's death will not be released until a Westminster Coroner's Court hearing.

Saldanha answered the phone when two Australian disc jockeys rang up the hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was

being treated for severe morning sickness last week. The DJs, who were impersonating Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, later broadcast the call, which included confidential details about the duchess' condition.

Saldanha was found dead three days later.

Although police have made no connection between Saldanha's death and the prank call, people from London to Sydney have

assumed she died because of stress from the call.

Australia's media watchdog, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, said on Thursday it was launching an official investigation into whether the radio station, 2DayFM, breached its broadcasting license conditions and the industry code of practice.

The ACMA said in a statement it would examine whether



Saldanha

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Saturday	12:55 4:20 7:45 10:10
Sunday	12:55 4:20 7:45
Monday thru Thursday	4:20 7:45
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage	
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13	

Synopsis
The creative team behind the Lord of the Rings trilogy returns to Middle-earth with this adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic precursor -The Hobbit. Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh share writing duties with Guillermo del Toro on the Warner Bros./MGM joint production, the story of which will span two films.

	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D
Friday	4:10 7:35 10:00
Saturday	12:45 4:10 7:35 10:00
Sunday	12:45 4:10 7:35
Monday thru Thursday	4:10 7:35
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage	
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13	

	Playing for Keeps
Friday	4:15 7:20 9:40
Saturday	1:20 4:15 7:20 9:40
Sunday	1:20 4:15 7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:15 7:20
Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid	
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13	

	Rise of the Guardians 3D
Friday	7:30 10:55
Saturday	1:30 7:30 10:55
Sunday	1:30 7:30
Monday thru Thursday	7:30
Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin	
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG	

	Life of Pi 3D
Friday	7:05 9:50
Saturday	1:05 7:05 9:50
Sunday	1:05 7:05
Monday thru Thursday	7:05
Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall	
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG	

	Red Dawn
Friday	4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday	1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday	1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25 7:25
Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson	
Genre: Action • Rated PG13	

	Life of Pi 2D
Friday	4:05
Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05
Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall	
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG	

	Rise of the Guardians 2D
Friday	4:30
Saturday	4:30
Sunday	4:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30
Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin	
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG	

	Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2
Friday	4:00 7:00 10:45
Saturday	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:45
Sunday	1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00 7:00
Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner	
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13	

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Wife is alarmed that husband has quietly planned his funeral

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for seven years. Since our wedding, he has had increasing health problems.

He recently told me that he planned his funeral three months ago, without saying a word to me. I am very concerned that he seems more focused on death than on life. Am I wrong to be upset? He says I am.



Dear Abby

WIFE IN BURLINGTON, N.J.

DEAR WIFE: I don't blame you for being concerned because husbands and wives should be able to discuss important topics with each other, and this is one of them.

When your husband has his next medical appointment, go with him so you can speak with his physician. It's possible that because of his "increasing health problems" he has become depressed, and if that's the case, his doctor should be told.

It is always helpful for spouses to accompany each other to their medical appointments in case the patient forgets to ask a question or tell the doctor something he or she needs to know.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 24-year-old son, "Dustin," moved out five years ago, but he expects me to keep all his childhood and college items in his old bedroom because he says he doesn't have room for them in his apartment.

I'd like to clear out his closet and dresser and use the space for things I want to store. I need more space for me.

Dustin is calling me selfish because I want to change "his" room and move my stuff in there. I say I need the space, and if he wants to keep all his stuff, he should rent a storage locker. By the way, he sleeps here maybe five nights a year at most.

How long are parents obligated to keep their grown children's keepsakes?

WANTS MY SPACE

DEAR WANTS YOUR SPACE: You are asking an emotionally loaded question. While, rationally, five years should be long enough, clearing "his" room instead of maintaining it as a shrine may feel like abandonment to your adult child.

Give Dustin a little more time to adjust—like six months—and then insist that he find a place for his things. That way it will be a little less traumatic.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: During these hard times, may I tell you about my daughter? Every year at Christmas, I let our children pick one present for around \$30 for themselves. They know that we don't have a lot of money and that "Santa" brings only a few presents.

My daughter chose to give her "Christmas money" to a charity so that another family can be blessed. She's only 9, and she understands there are families who are in more need than us. She truly is an angel for reminding me of that.

I went to our local food pantry and told them what my daughter wanted to do for Christmas. The director wrote her a letter of thanks and explained how many families her \$30 would be helping. I'm so proud of my girl. Sometimes it takes a child to remind us how all of us should act.

BLESSED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BLESSED: Yes, it's true. But invariably it takes good parents to instill a spirit of empathy and generosity in their children. So some of the credit belongs to you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Wizard garb helped McKellen re-conjure Gandalf

NEW YORK (AP)—Repeated filming delays almost caused Ian McKellen to quit his reprise as Gandalf the Grey in "The Hobbit" trilogy, a prequel to "The Lord of the Rings" in which he first played the wily wizard.

"It wasn't a simple offer," he said, recalling that in the two years since he first accepted the role, Peter Jackson pulled out as director, then replacement Guillermo del Toro dropped out, followed by Jackson becoming ill after he signed on again. "I just had to keep adjusting to the possibility that the film was never going to get made."

But McKellen decided he "must do it" for both the fans and himself, despite his various doubts about returning to the role. And he says any concerns he had about bringing Gandalf back to life vanished as soon as he slipped back into those wizardly robes—along with the beard, mustache and fake nose.

"That was the moment when I thought, 'Oh, it's all right. I do still remember the old boy,'" the actor recalled in a recent interview to promote "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," which opens in North American on Friday. "The voice came back and there we were. It was a very quick, easy



This film image released by Warner Bros., shows Ian McKellen as Gandalf in a scene from the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

thing to do."

Not so easy was adapting the technicalities needed to re-create Middle Earth and all of its characters of various shapes and sizes. Because Gandalf is larger than most of the other "Hobbit" characters, including its 13 dwarves, McKellen often filmed by himself in front of a green screen, which he called "frustrating."

"It does mean that I'm talk-

ing to 13 people that aren't really there, whose voices I can only hear through an earpiece," he said. "That's not really comfortable and doesn't leave a lot of room for spontaneity."

Some reviewers have criticized "The Hobbit" for drawing out the original story, adding characters and taking oblique references from "The Lord of the Rings" appendices to create tension and a bad guy.

However, McKellen says he believes Jackson stuck to J.R.R. Tolkien's vision. "I think Peter has genuinely found a method of adding images to Tolkien's amazing words, which are the pictorial equivalent to the words," and embedded them into his "filmmaking innards."

Jackson would not do anything to "contradict Tolkien's intentions of even his methods of storytelling," McKellen said.

'Lincoln,' 'Les Mis,' 'Playbook' lead SAG awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steven Spielberg's Civil War saga "Lincoln," the Victor Hugo musical adaptation "Les Miserables" and the lost-soul romance "Silver Linings Playbook" led the Screen Actors Guild Awards with four nominations each Wednesday.

All three films were nominated for overall performance by their casts. Also nominated for best ensemble cast were the Iran hostage-crisis thriller "Argo" and the British retiree adventure "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel."

The SAG Awards, presented Jan. 27, are one of Hollywood's first major announcements on the long road to the Feb. 24 Academy Awards, whose nominations will be released Jan. 10.

Nominations for the Golden Globes, the second-biggest film

honors after the Oscars, come out Thursday.

"Lincoln" also scored individual acting nominations for British-born Daniel Day-Lewis in the title role as best actor, Sally Field for supporting actress as Mary Todd Lincoln and Tommy Lee Jones for supporting actor as abolitionist firebrand Thaddeus Stevens.

"Les Miserables" had nominations for Australian-born Hugh Jackman for best actor as Hugo's long-suffering hero Jean Valjean and Anne Hathaway for supporting actress as a woman fallen into prostitution, plus a nomination for its stunt ensemble.

"Silver Linings Playbook" also had lead-acting nominations for Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence as troubled spirits who

find a second chance at love and Robert De Niro for supporting actor as a football-obsessed dad.

Besides Lawrence, best-actress nominees are Jessica Chastain as a CIA analyst pursuing Osama bin Laden in "Zero Dark Thirty," French-born Marion Cotillard as a woman who finds romance after tragedy in "Rust and Bone," British-born Helen Mirren as Alfred Hitchcock's strong-willed wife in "Hitchcock," and British-Australian Naomi Watts as a woman caught in the devastation of a tsunami in "The Impossible."

Joining Cooper, Day-Lewis and Jackman in the best-actor field are John Hawkes as a polio victim aiming to lose his virginity in "The Sessions" and Denzel Washington as a boozy airline pilot in "Flight."

Wiz Khalifa readies music, marriage, fatherhood

ATLANTA (AP)—Rapper Wiz Khalifa says preparation for becoming a first-time father and husband has helped put him in a more mature musical state of mind.

But that doesn't mean Khalifa will refrain from his weed-smoking, rock star-like ways.

"I'm at a different point in my life," said Khalifa, whose sophomore album, "O.N.I.F.C.," debuted at No. 2 on Billboard's 200 albums chart this week with 141,000 copies sold, according to Nielsen Scan.

"I just want to say things a little bit differently and express

myself on another level on the album," he continued. "I have new responsibilities, but I'm always going to smoke weed and enjoy myself. My son is going to love me for the same reasons others do. I'm not just going to turn into some old fart."

For the 25-year-old Khalifa, life is just getting started. He and his fiancée, Amber Rose, who is in the third trimester of her pregnancy, are expected to get married at a courthouse in a few weeks.

Khalifa said he and Rose—an ex-girlfriend of Kanye West—want to marry before the birth of their son. He said they will hold

a traditional wedding ceremony later with family and friends.

"There's a lot of excitement going on," the Pittsburg-based rapper said. "I just worked my (butt) off and tried to be better every day. I've just tried to move forward naturally."

Rose, a model and rapper, appears on Khalifa's new album. It also features Pharrell, 2 Chainz and the Weeknd, who appears on the current single "Remember You." The first single, "Work Hard, Play Hard," is a platinum Top 20 hit.

While the album is finally out, Khalifa and his record label, Atlantic Records, initially struggled over the creative process for "O.N.I.F.C.," which stands for "Only N-word in First Class."

Judge revokes Lohan's probation, sets hearing date

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge revoked Lindsay Lohan's probation on Wednesday and scheduled a hearing that could result in more jail time for the closely watched "Liz and Dick" star.

The ruling in Los Angeles came as the 26-year-old actress—who did not appear in court—faces misdemeanor counts of reckless driving, lying to a police officer and obstructing an officer from performing duties after an accident in which her Porsche slammed into the back of a dump truck in June.

Lohan told police in Santa Monica that her assistant was driving, but detectives now believe the actress was behind the wheel as she headed to a movie set.

Lohan was on probation at the time after previously being convicted of the misdemeanor theft of a necklace.

A probation violation hearing was set for Jan. 15. A judge could sentence the actress up to 245 days in jail after the Santa Monica case is resolved.

Lohan was not required to appear in court Wednesday. She was represented by her attorney, Shawn Holley, who did not immediately return an email message seeking comment after the hearing.



Lohan



Khalifa

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Minimum of 5 years experience. Knowledgeable in using power and hand tools and equipment. Familiarity with OSHA and CNMI Environmental laws. Knowledgeable in the installation, maintenance and repair of electrical or electronic wirings & electrical system installations.

Email to marianas_star@yahoo.com
Fax: 288-7824 Tel.: 234-5577

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Position: Supervisor, Food & Beverage (2)
Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experience and training. Must be reliable, self motivated and good communicator. Oversee the day to day operations of dining areas, ensuring that the facility remains in compliance with safety regulations and health codes. Observe and evaluate workers and work procedures to ensure quality standards and service. Supervise and participate in dining area cleaning activities. Train workers in service, sanitation and safety procedures. Complete and balance cash receipts at the end of the day or shift. Attends to customer complaints or issues, resolving matter as expediently as possible.

Position: Equipment Technician (1)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of experience and training. Knowledge of machines & tools including their designs, uses, repair and maintenance. Record details of repairs made and parts used. Reassemble machine and equipment following repair, test operation and make adjustment as necessary. Maintain, repair and overhaul Golf Course machinery and vehicles such as tractors and irrigation system. Examine and listen to equipment, read inspection reports to locate and diagnose malfunctions. Dismantle the defective machines for repair using hand tools. Test and replace electrical components and wiring using tests meters, soldering equipment and hand tools. Repair & replace defective parts. Clean and lubricate parts. Tune and overhaul engines.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (1)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road. May submit resume online at:
tmatsunaga@laolaoabay.com
Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on December 21, 2012.

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Yano Enterprises, INC.:

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Must be efficient in handling financial records, statements, & reports. Have knowledge on all Taxes computation & filing. Must be able to budget & estimate purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise necessary in the company.

Cook (5): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan, Hotel Street. Please no phone calls.

S P O R T S

Vilma advances defamation case, Brees blasts Goodell



NEW OR-LEANS (AP)—One day after his suspension in the NFL's bounty probe was overturned, Jonathan Vilma moved forward with his defamation claims against Commissioner Roger Goodell, while Drew Brees and other teammates went on the offensive against Goodell and the league office.

"What I would like to see is a level of accountability on the part of the NFL and Commissioner Goodell in regards to mishandling of this entire situation," Brees said after practice Wednesday. "We as players hold ourselves and are held to a very strict code of conduct both on and off the field. We have to be accountable to that, as it should be, and I feel like they should be held to the same standards."

"If someone would just come out in the league office and admit, 'You know what? We could have handled this situation better,' it would go such a long way with both players and fans. People would really come around to realize what this thing was all about because right now the league office and Commissioner Goodell have very little to no credibility with us as players."

Speaking later at a special league meeting in Dallas, Goodell, when apprised of Brees' comments, said he wouldn't apologize.

"To have a bounty program where you're targeting players for injury is completely unacceptable in the NFL, and it is clear that occurred for three years despite all of the denials," Goodell said.

Vilma was initially suspended an entire season while three other players—Saints defensive end Will Smith, Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita and free-agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, received various suspensions of shorter lengths.

Paul Tagliabue, the former commissioner appointed by Goodell to handle the final round of appeals, threw out the suspensions and ruled there would be no fines, either, for any of the players. However, he absolved only Fujita. Tagliabue still found that Vilma and Smith took part in a Saints program that rewarded injurious hits and that Hargrove was not entirely truthful when NFL investigators asked him about the pool, but he said the suspensions levied by Goodell were disproportionate to how players had historically been punished for similar behavior, and because there was no clear link to "tough talk" about tak-

ing opponents out of game and the actual play on the field.

In motions filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court, Vilma and the NFL Players Association filed motions dropping their claims against the league over the player-discipline phase of the bounty probe.

However, Vilma notified U.S. District Judge Ginger Berrigan he would continue to pursue defamation claims he filed against the commissioner back in May, and asked the judge to open the discovery process which includes the collection of evidence and deposing of witnesses.

Later in the day, Berrigan ruled against opening discovery at this time, likely because she has yet to rule on the NFL's motion to dismiss Vilma's claims.

Vilma made it clear that he still believes his reputation has been harmed by the way Goodell spoke publicly about allegations that Vilma was the ring-leader of a bounty program which rewarded hits that injured targeted opponents, and that he put up \$10,000 bounties on Kurt Warner and Brett Favre in the 2009-10 playoffs.

"Well the most important part of me being able to play now and not having to worry about a lingering suspension, that part is over," Vilma said. "I'm excited about that. The next part is really, that's outside of football. That's talking about attacking a man's character, attacking a man's integrity."

Vilma said he could not be sure what kind of settlement he might be willing to accept, but sounded like he was more interested in seeing through a court case with evidence made public than taking a financial settlement and keeping quiet.

"This is my career. There are no do-overs in football. I don't get to stop, wait five years and start over and come back with a new attitude, or a new face, or anything like that," Vilma said. "This is my legacy. This is what I leave behind. If I were to stop now, the only thing people are going to remember is the bounty. They're not going to remember anything before that. They're not going to remember all the accolades. That's why it's very important."

Goodell said Tagliabue's report "made it quite clear that he holds the management and the coaches responsible. My personal view is I hold everyone responsible. We have to have a personal responsibility here. Player health and safety is an important issue in this league."

Saints head coach Sean Payton is serving a full-season sus-

pension, while general manager Mickey Loomis served eight games and assistant head coach Joe Vitt six.

Smith, the Saints' defensive end, also was critical of Tagliabue's opinion, saying that while he was pleased his suspension was overturned, he did not understand why he wasn't completely exonerated. He said he thought the testimony of two key NFL witnesses in the probe, former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and former defensive assistant Mike Cerullo, cleared him, though the NFL disagreed.

According to transcripts of closed hearings obtained by The Associated Press from a person with the role in the case, Williams and Cerullo both testified that Smith contributed money to a pay-for-performance pool that among other things rewarded hard legal hits, including those that knocked players out of games. However, when asked directly if Smith every put a bounty on anyone or even suggested that the Saints should try to injure any opposing player, both former coaches answered, "No."

"People actually think that we actually went out and did this, and we didn't do this," Smith said of the bounty program, adding that he had not decided whether to pursue any defamation claims of his own. "The only thing that was going on was a pay-for-performance that pretty much every other team in the league has and have had for years. That was it, I never participate in a bounty or put money down to injure another player or encourage other guys to injure other players."

Vilma said he was not bothered by the wording of Tagliabue's ruling, saying he fully expected the former commissioner, who works with a firm that represents the NFL, to be careful not to expose his client to liability.

Brees had a dimmer view. "I hate to say this because it sounds so conspiracy theorist, but it seems like the last, at least, month or so, especially once Tagliabue stepped in, it's very staged, as in, 'OK, how do we get ourselves out of this mess, let the players off,'" Brees said. "Thank God we have a union that can represent the players and fight the process and represent our guys. Unfortunately, the coaches don't have that. The coaches are told the way it's going to be, and they have no way to fight back unfortunately, because I'd say certainly Mickey Loomis, Joe Vitt and Sean Payton didn't deserve what they got."

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Improving Warriors slip past Heat, 97-95



MIAMI (AP)—Draymond Green made a layup with 0.9 seconds left to give the Golden State Warriors a 97-95 win over the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

Klay Thompson tied a season high with 27 points to lead the Warriors, who have won five straight.

LeBron James led Miami with 31 points as he reached the 20-point mark for the 25th consecutive game, the longest current streak in the NBA.

Jarrett Jack dribbled the ball at the top of the key for the Warriors as the clock ticked down before finding Green open underneath the basket. Green caught the pass in mid-air and made the basket.

James' jumper from the baseline banged off the rim giving Golden State the win as Miami lost for just the second time in 12 home games.

David Lee scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Jack added 20 points off the bench for the Warriors.

Golden State took a 77-74 lead into the fourth quarter after leading for most of the third.

After hitting a 3 to tie the game at 87, James gave the Heat their first lead since early in the third with a turnaround 18-footer with 6:41 left for an 89-87 advantage.

The teams played a one-possession game over the next four minutes before Lee knocked down a pair of free throws to tie the game at 95 with 1:54 left.

The score was still tied at 95 with under a minute remaining. Ray Allen had a chance to give the Heat a lead with 45 seconds left. Lee followed by missing a driving layup. Shane Battier's miss from the corner with 12 seconds left gave the Warriors an opportunity in the closing seconds.

The Heat received a scare in the second quarter when Lee sent James to the floor with a flagrant foul sending James to the floor on his back.

James popped up quickly, but spent the next couple of minutes stretching out his right shoulder before knocking down the free throw and hitting a shot on the ensuing possession for a 47-43 lead.

Moments later, Dwyane Wade was poked in the eye by Thompson while trying to fight through a screen. With Wade's head down, Chris Bosh ran into Wade knocking him to a floor. After staying down on the floor, Wade eventually got to his feet and went to the locker room holding the back of his neck with 3:11 left in the half.

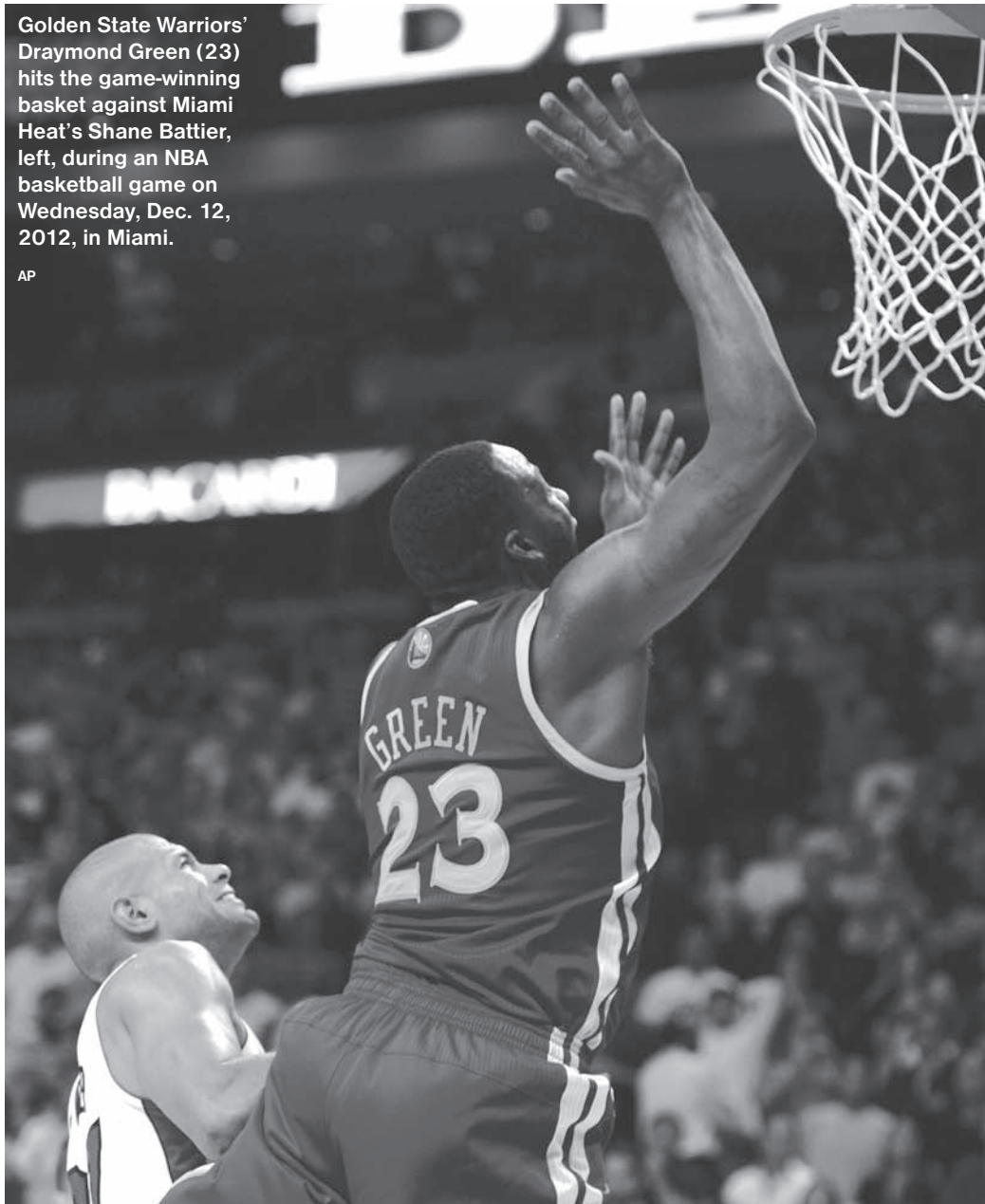
Thompson helped the Warriors take a 53-52 lead into halftime by scoring 21 points including five 3-pointers. Thompson scored 14 points in the second quarter, including 11 in a four-minute span.

Wade returned for the second half and opened the scoring with a dunk.

Both teams got off to a good

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) hits the game-winning basket against Miami Heat's Shane Battier, left, during an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, in Miami.

AP



start offensively, but it was defensive efforts by both teams which sparked the first highlight of the game.

After Stephen Curry picked off a pass by James, Wade returned the favor deflecting Curry's pass and ran toward the sideline saving the ball with an around-the-back pass to Mario Chalmers. Chalmers then found James, who tipped a pass to Wade for a layup and a 23-22 lead.

Thunder 92, Hornets 88

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 35 points and Oklahoma City extended its winning streak to nine games with a victory over New Orleans.

The Thunder rallied from an 11-point second-half deficit and matched their longest win streak since the franchise moved from Seattle.

At 18-4, the Thunder also matched the second-best start in franchise history. Seattle started 20-2 in the 1993-94 season and the Thunder started 18-4 last season.

Brian Roberts scored 16 points to lead the Hornets, who lost their fifth straight game overall and seventh straight against Oklahoma City.

Clippers 100, Bobcats 94

In Charlotte, N.C., Chris Paul had 19 points and 10 assists to help the Clippers extend their longest win streak in two decades to eighth with a victory over Charlotte.

Blake Griffin and Matt

Barnes also scored 19 points for the Clippers, who maintained sole possession of first place in the Pacific Division.

Byron Mullens had 19 points and eight rebounds, and Kemba Walker chipped in with 17 points to lead the stumbling Bobcats, who have lost nine straight since starting the season 7-5.

The Bobcats trailed 78-71 entering the fourth quarter and got as close as three before Barnes scored on a fast break dunk and hit a 3-pointer to push the lead back to eight.

Nets 94, Raptors 88

In Toronto, Joe Johnson scored 23 points, and Andray Blatche had 14 points and nine rebounds to help Brooklyn end a five-game losing streak with a win over Toronto.

C.J. Watson scored 16 points and Deron Williams added 12 as the Nets won for the first time since Nov. 30 at Orlando.

Former Raptors Reggie Evans and Kris Humphries both had big games for the Nets. Evans had nine points and 11 rebounds, while Humphries scored 11 points, making nine of 10 free throws.

Ed Davis matched his career high with 24 points and added 12 rebounds, while Jose Calderon had 10 points and 15 assists for the Raptors, who have lost six straight and 12 of 13.

Jazz 99, Spurs 96

In Salt Lake City, Mo Williams hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to

help Utah snap San Antonio's winning streak at five.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 24 points and 12 rebounds, Al Jefferson scored 21 points and Gordon Hayward added 19.

The Jazz trailed by eight with a little more than 4 minutes remaining. Williams' winning shot was his only 3 of the night and he finished with eight points on 3-for-9 shooting from the field.

Tim Duncan and Tony Parker each scored 22 points to lead the Spurs, who swept the Jazz out of the playoffs in the first round and had won 11 of the last 12 meetings.

Celtics 117, Mavericks 115, 2OT

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 34 points, including a 3-pointer at the start of the second overtime to give Boston the lead for good, and the Celtics held on to beat Dallas.

Rajon Rondo had 16 points, 15 assists and nine rebounds, and Kevin Garnett added 16 points to help Boston win its second straight.

O.J. Mayo scored 24 points, and Shawn Marion had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Mavericks.

Pierce made five of six free throws in the second overtime. With his basket with 59 seconds left in the first OT, he surpassed 23,000 career points. He is the 25th NBA player to reach the mark.

Suns 82, Grizzlies 80

In Phoenix, Goran Dragic made

a short hook shot from the left baseline with 0.5 seconds remaining to help Phoenix snap a seven-game losing streak with a win over Memphis.

Dragic had 12 points, and Shannon Brown and Jared Dudley scored 15 each for the Suns, who won for the first time since Nov. 27 at Cleveland.

Rudy Gay had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Zach Randolph added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who lost consecutive games for the first time this season.

A lob attempt off an inbound pass by the Grizzlies was broken up by a pair of Phoenix defenders as time expired.

Bulls 96, 76ers 89

In Philadelphia, Joakim Noah scored 21 points, and Luol Deng added 19 points and 12 rebounds to help Chicago win its fourth in a row on the road with a victory over Philadelphia.

Less than 24 hours after losing to the Los Angeles Clippers by five points at United Center, the Bulls traveled to Philadelphia and appeared more rested than the Sixers, who had Tuesday off.

Marco Belinelli had 16 points and Nate Robinson, starting in place of guard Kirk Hinrich, had 14 for Chicago. Hinrich injured his left knee in the loss to the Clippers and is listed as day-to-day.

Jrue Holiday scored 26 points, Evan Turner added 16 and Thaddeus Young 13 for Philadelphia. Reserve Spencer Hawes chipped in with 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Nick Young also scored 10.

Bucks 98, Kings 85

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 19 points, and Monta Ellis had 17 points and 11 assists to lead Milwaukee past Sacramento.

Ersan Ilyasova added 16 points and a season-high 14 rebounds, and Luc Richard Mbah a Moute scored a season-high 17 in his first start of the season for Milwaukee (11-9), which has its best 20-game start since 2005-06.

Tyreke Evans had 17 points in his return to Sacramento's lineup after missing three straight games—and five of six—with a sore left knee. John Salmons added 16 points. The Kings were without center DeMarcus Cousins, who was suspended one game for striking Dallas' O.J. Mayo in the groin.

Pacers 96, Cavaliers 81

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 27 points to help Indiana overcome a 16-point deficit in a win over Cleveland.

David West added 18 points and nine rebounds, and George Hill scored 17 points for the Pacers, who snapped a two-game skid.

Indiana, third in the NBA in scoring defense and No. 1 in

opponent field-goal percentage coming in, held the Cavaliers to 23 points on 8-for-41 shooting in the second half — Cleveland's lowest-scoring half of the season.

C.J. Miles had 28 points, while Kyrie Irving was held to nine on 4-for-12 shooting for the Cavs.

Timberwolves 108, Nuggets 105

In Minneapolis, Nikola Pekovic had 22 points and 11 rebounds and Minnesota used a big advantage at the free throw line to overcome Kevin Love's shooting struggles and beat Denver.

Love finished with eight points on 3-for-17 shooting and grabbed 14 rebounds on a day he had to explain to Minnesota's owner and his teammates some critical comments he made about the franchise.

The Timberwolves shot under 40 percent for much of the game, but made 30 of 37 from the free throw line. The Nuggets were just 14 of 24 at the line.

Kenneth Faried had 26 points and 14 rebounds for the road-weary Nuggets, who missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer that would have tied the game.

Hawks 86, Magic 80

In Orlando, Fla., Josh Smith and Jeff Teague scored 16 points apiece, Al Horford added 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Atlanta Hawks held off a late charge to beat Orlando.

Atlanta extended its regular-season win streak against Orlando to eight with its second win over the Magic this season.

Arron Afflalo scored 16 points and J.J. Redick added 13 for the Magic, who were able to dig out of a huge first-half hole couldn't overcome 16 turnovers that led to 24 points.

Orlando also struggled from the field, connecting on only 31 of 81 shots, in dropping its fourth straight home game. The Magic get a chance to end the skid Friday against Golden State.

Rockets 99, Wizards 93

In Houston, James Harden scored 31 points and Houston got its first victory under coach Kevin McHale Rockets in over a month with a win over Washington.

The Wizards threatened late in the fourth quarter, but Chandler Parsons scored eight straight points for Houston in the final three minutes, including two 3-pointers, to secure the victory. Parsons finished with 18 points and eight rebounds.

It was Houston's first victory since McHale rejoined the team last Saturday following the death of his 23-year-old daughter. Alexandra "Sasha" McHale died Nov. 24 of complications from Lupus.

Rookie Bradley Beal had 20 points to lead Washington.

Dodgers on track to pass Yanks in 2013 payroll



NEW YORK
(AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers

are on track to become only the second major league team with a \$200 million payroll and could end the New York Yankees' streak of 14 years as baseball's biggest spender.

The Dodgers are at \$214.8 million for 21 signed players next season, according to a study of their contracts by The Associated Press. That follows last weekend's additions of free agent pitcher Zack Greinke for a \$147 million, six-year contract and South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin for a \$36 million, six-year deal.

"Creating a lot of buzz, that's for sure," Greinke said. "And you do wonder when things are going to stop."

Crediting the \$3.9 million Boston is paying Los Angeles next year as part of last August's trade and not counting the portions of signing bonuses for players obtained from the Red Sox, the Dodgers' 2013 payroll currently is at \$207.9 million.

The Yankees have led each year since the Baltimore Orioles edged them by \$200,000 in 1998, and New York has been at \$200 million-plus every season since 2005. The record opening-day payroll of \$209.1 million was set by the Yankees in 2008.

"I don't think there's anybody that can keep up with what the



Los Angeles Dodgers new right-handed pitcher Zack Greinke, left, talks to the media as team owner Magic Johnson laughs, right, after during a baseball news conference at Dodgers Stadium Club, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Dodgers are doing," Arizona Diamondbacks general manager Kevin Towers said.

Los Angeles, almost certain to pay the luxury tax next year, has joined the high rollers since the Dodgers were bought in May by Mark Walter's group, which also includes Magic Johnson and Stan Kasten.

"When we took over the team we said we were going to spend money and I guess you guys are seeing that we're trying to do

that," Johnson said. "We're not messing around. We're not talking about it, we're doing it."

Under outgoing owner Frank McCourt, they started the season with the 12th-highest payroll at \$94.7 million. They boosted spending with the mid-season acquisitions of Hanley Ramirez, Adrian Gonzalez, Josh Beckett, Carl Crawford and Brandon League.

The Dodgers finished 86-76 last season, eight games behind

the eventual World Series champion San Francisco Giants in the NL West. The Dodgers haven't reached the World Series since winning the title in 1988.

In addition to their players with agreements, the Dodgers have two players eligible for salary arbitration: catcher A.J. Ellis and right-hander Ronald Belisario.

"We're here to win. I can't tell you if we're stopping or not," Johnson said.

New York's 2013 payroll is at \$176 million for 13 players, including a \$12 million deal for third baseman Kevin Youkilis that hasn't been finalized. Four Yankees are eligible for arbitration: pitchers Phil Hughes, David Robertson, Joba Chamberlain and Boone Logan.

The deals for Greinke and Ryu contain numerous complicated provisions and perks.

Greinke gets a \$12 million signing bonus, of which \$7 million is payable by Dec. 31 and \$5 million on Feb. 1, 2014. He gets a \$17 million salary next year, \$24 million in 2014, \$23 million in 2015, \$24 million in 2016, \$23 million in 2017 and \$24 million in 2018.

He can opt out of the final three years of the contract within three days of the final game of the 2015 World Series.

While Greinke doesn't have a no-trade provision, if he's dealt during the season he can decide within three days of the end of the World Series whether to terminate the contract. And if he's traded during the offseason, he gets an extra \$3 million and has the right to end the deal immediately.

In addition, for the 2018 season only, he gets \$1 million for winning the Cy Young Award and \$500,000 for finishing second through fifth. Greinke also has the right to purchase four premium tickets for all home games.

Ryu gets a \$5 million signing bonus, half due on April 1 and the rest on April 1, 2014. His salaries are \$2.5 million next year, \$3.5 million in 2014, \$4 million in 2015 and \$7 million in each of the following three seasons. He can earn an additional \$1 million annually in performance bonuses, \$250,000 each for 170, 180, 190 and 200 innings.

If he has 750 innings pitched from 2013-17, he can opt out of the final season. If he wins the Cy Young Award, his salaries for remaining seasons would increase by \$1 million. They would go up by \$750,000 if he finishes second, \$500,000 if he finishes third and \$250,000 if he finishes fourth or fifth.

He has the same opt-out rights as Greinke, but without the \$3 million payment, and he can't be sent to the minor leagues without his consent.

Ryu gets a \$30,000 moving allowance, eight annual first-class round-trip tickets from Los Angeles to South Korea, an employee assigned to Korean media needs, and interpreter, a personal trainer/massage therapist, English lessons and payment for immigration fees.

The contract gives him the right to wear No. 99 and allows him access to purchase premium tickets. He gets a suite on the road but pays the difference between the cost of a suite and a regular room.



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Oceania weightlifting officials in town



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is pleased to announce that Paul Coffa, secretary general of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, will be on Saipan from Dec. 13 to 15.

Coffa is here to meet with CNMI weightlifters, encourage the development of the sport in the CNMI, and help revive a CNMI weightlifting federation. NMASA wants to include weightlifting as a sport to be offered in its proposed bid to host

the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, and views an active and strong weightlifting federation as essential to the success of the bid.

Coffa and CNMI weightlifters are scheduled to meet today at 4pm at the Marianas Strength Gym, located in the Tun Kiko Building in Garapan. All interested CNMI weightlifters are encouraged to attend.

Coffa's credentials are impressive. In addition to serving as secretary general of Oceania Weightlifting, he is also the secretary general of the (British)

Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation. He has served as director and head coach of the Oceania Weightlifting Institute in Noumea, New Caledonia, since 2002.

Coffa has coached or managed weightlifting teams for Australia, Nauru, and other countries in Oceania at nearly every Olympics since 1984; every Pacific Games since 1989; every World Championships between 1983 and 2006; and nearly every Commonwealth Games since 1978.

His Olympic Games teams have won two medals, including a gold medal. His Commonwealth Games teams have won a total of 91 medals, 33 of them gold. His World Championship teams have won a total of 17 medals, including two gold. His Pacific Games teams have won an astounding 223 gold medals. He is a licensed international weightlifting referee. He was named a member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1982, for his services to the sport, and was awarded the Australian Sports

Medal in 2000, for his outstanding services to weightlifting.

For further information, con-

tact NMASA president Michael A. White at 234-6547, or Eric MacDuff at 285-2568. **(NMASA)**

DLX caging starts Sunday



Domino Lux International Fraternity will kick off the 5th DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League this Sunday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Final submission of rosters will be tonight and coaches or representatives of participating teams are required to attend a meeting at the Gualo Rai court at 6:30pm. Only the first 16 teams to submit their lineup

will be allowed to compete. Entrance fee is only \$300 and the champion team will receive a cash prize.

Teams are allowed to combine B and C players on their rosters and classification of players will be determined by organizers and should be approved by coaches and team representatives.

For more information, contact Jojo Garon at 483-2939, Pando Muleta at 888-7967, and Rick Brien 789-7620. **(PR)**

RGA Club Championship tees off Sunday



The Refaluwasch Golf Association is holding its Club Championship this Sunday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Show time is set for 6:30am leading into a 7:30am shotgun start.

This year's 12 monthly ace qualifiers will all be competing for the club's coveted Placido M. Tagabuel Award, which will

be presented to the RGA member that turns in the lowest net score of the day.

A win on Sunday also earns the league champion free admittance into a golf event of their choice next season on top of a \$200 cash prize.

Notably, the RGA board members will also honor the group's "annual" low net champ to the golfer that managed to

maintain the lowest net average over the entire 2012 season with the Sid K. Peter Award, in addition to issuing its Antonio Taitano Award to the player that participated in the most events this year.

Eligible club championship competitors include January ace Ki Soo Kim, February's Tony Roglifo, March's Jordan Kosam, April's Joe

Saures, May's L.J. Camacho, June's Tars Olopai, July's Ray Tigilau, August's Ahn Hun Jin, September's Manny Mangarero, October's Diwain Stephens, November's Harry Nakamura, and December's Tom Tebuteb.

For more information, contact RGA president Joe Soares at 483-5506, league secretary Jordan Kosam at 483-4506, or email cnmirga@gmail.com. **(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)**

CNMI

From Page 32

Meanwhile, Wong and Kimura were scheduled to race in their second event last Thursday morning, while Chentsova took a break and

will have her last event in the tournament—the 200m freestyle this Saturday morning (evening on Saipan).

Kimura and Wong were both entered in the preliminary races in the 50m freestyle event. Kimura was on Heat 6 with a qualifying time of 26.26 sec-

onds and raced against eight others, including the favored Qatari Abdulrahman Al-Kuwari, who had the fastest qualifying time at 25:80 seconds.

Wong raced on Heat 7 and had the third best qualifying time in his group with 25.29 seconds, three seconds behind

the Cook Island's Tapaia Zac Payne and a second behind Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Tolga Akcayli.

The three Commonwealth swimmers competing in Turkey are accompanied by Saipan Swim Club's Minerva Cabrera.

AGAPE

From Page 32

while Saipan Southern High School's Seiya Eda (33:37) and Tinian High School's Jarvis King (37:27) and Adam Cabrera (37:50) got ribbons for completing the Top 6.

Tinian went on to take the runner-up trophy in the boys U18, as it fielded three other runners in the race to make the requirement. Joseph Lizama Jr., Josue Genesis Cruz, and Jerome Ignacio completed the Stallions, who earned 57 points to place second behind Agape, which had 32 markers. The team with the least points was given the top honors and points were awarded based on how runners placed in the race. A squad must have at least five runners to qualify for

the team awards.

In the girls U18, MHS missed taking a team trophy after falling a runner short. Shane Fabiana topped the all-Lady Dolphins race after clocking in at 41:29 and defeating Clarisse Cayabyab (42:00), Francine Sablan (44:24), and Brianna Pangelinan (53:40).

In other age groups, SCS was awarded championship trophies in the boys U8, U10, and U12.

The Tsunamis had two runners making it to the Top 5 with Seung Jun Paik becoming the team's top finisher in the U8 race after logging 6:34 and Arman Kaito Rebucher placing fifth with his 6:54. Brilliant Star's Dylan Mister ruled the division with his 6:03, while SCS' Sedrei Camacho won the girls division with a time of 6:40, defeating

Oleai Elementary School's Kina Rangamar (7:42).

In the boys U10, four SCS runners finished in the Top 6 with John Hong recording the fastest time on his team with his 15:03. Hong was more than a minute behind top finisher Blake Mister (13:17) of Whispering Palms. Hong's teammate Jason Sablan completed the Top 3 with a time of 15:11, while Agape's Annie Wang reigned supreme in the girls division with a time of 13:34.

Haruya Eda prevailed in the boys U12 with his 11:39 to lift SCS to the team championship. His teammates Nael Lim (11:59.99), Ken Song (12:40), and Kento Akimaru (14:14) made it to the Top 6, which also included Hopwood Junior High School's O'Neil Magno (11:59) and Whispering Palms' Logan

Mister (12:47). Agape's Sarah Wu joined the U12 race and timed in at 15:44.

Agape was also the only school that had entries in the girls U14 and Beibei Chen defeated Rhine Jaydel Villamayor with the former submitting 1:08:22 against the latter's 1:16:55.

Hopwood's Edgem Bedonia took the top honors in the boys U14 with a time of 35:02. SCS' Elnathan Wong (36:52) came in next, while Saipan International School's Dylan Ackerman (37:16), Agape's Owen Yu (41:20), Hopwood's Nathaniel Montano (42:30), and Agape's Angelo Tiang (43:55) rounded out the Top 6.

Northern Marianas Athletics organized the championships and held the qualifying races before holding the finale.

paced POI with his 14 markers, while Sablan and Dave Indalecio contributed 12 apiece.

Shirley's will duel CTSI/D&Q for the championship trophy tomorrow at 6:30pm.

Shirley's 111 – Sedillo 37, Usi 21, Dela Rosa 17, Catungal 8, Nicdao 6, Escalada 6, Yap 5, Galarion 4, Laxa 4, Merencia 2.

POI 60 – Mejia 14, Indalecio 12, Sablan 12, Tenepere 6, Camacho 4, Pena 4, Esteves 2, Goode 2, Bongaling 2.

Scoring by quarters: 33-12, 66-30, 89-41, 117-60.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 32

A 33-12 Shirley's start ended any POI's hopes for another playoff upset and moved the former a win away from completing its domination of the 2012 season of the Tan Holdings caging. Shirley ruled the regular season with its 9-1 record to gain the top seeding in the playoffs and automatically advanced to the semis, while POI had a 1-9 mark, but managed to make it to the Final Four round after stunning Kanoa Resort.

Fradel Sedillo and Rommel Usi made sure Shirley's would not suffer the same fate as Kanoa's, as the duo anchored the team's jackrabbit start en route to the lopsided win. Sedillo scored 15 points in the opening frame, outgunning the entire POI crew, while Usi chipped in 10.

POI picked up its scoring a bit in the second quarter, nailing 18, with Mitch Sablan leading the way with his 8 markers. However, Shirley's was still at it and matched its first-quarter output to walk away with a big 66-30 halftime lead.

Sedillo and Usi continued pil-

ing up points for Shirley's and their consistent offense inspired their teammates to step in and provide help. Erick Dela Rosa and Vince Yap drained at least two baskets apiece, while three others also lit up the scoreboard for Shirley's in the second period.

Enjoying a 36-point advantage at the start of the second half, Shirley's slowed down a bit, but POI failed to capitalize, as the latter was contented on trading baskets with the former.

Sedillo led Shirley's victory with his 37 points, while Usi and Dela Rosa added 21 and 17, respectively. Fernando Mejia

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	5	.762	—
Brooklyn	12	9	.571	4
Boston	12	9	.571	4
Philadelphia	12	10	.545	4½
Toronto	4	19	.174	13

Southeast Division

Miami	14	6	.700	—
Atlanta	13	6	.684	½
Orlando	8	13	.381	6½
Charlotte	7	14	.333	7½
Washington	3	16	.158	10½

Central Division

Chicago	12	9	.571	—
Milwaukee	11	9	.550	½
Indiana	11	11	.500	1½
Detroit	7	17	.292	6½
Cleveland	5	18	.217	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	18	5	.783	—
Memphis	14	5	.737	2
Dallas	11	11	.500	6½
Houston	10	11	.476	7
New Orleans	5	16	.238	12

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	18	4	.818	—
Utah	13	10	.565	5½
Minnesota	10	9	.526	6½
Denver	11	12	.478	7½
Portland	9	12	.429	8½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	16	6	.727	—
Golden State	15	7	.682	1
L.A. Lakers	9	13	.409	7
Phoenix	8	15	.348	8½
Sacramento	7	14	.333	8½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic Juniors Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, third placer Clayton Izuka, runner-up Alex Park, and champion Robbie Schorr pose with their plaques in the boys U12 singles during the awards ceremony for the 4th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Boys U15 singles Top 3 finishers, from left, third placer Colin Ramsey, runner-up Michael Ren, and champion Dylan Ackerman.



Boys U18 champion Christian Miller, right, is joined by runners-up Rafael Jones, center, and Seiya Eda.



Boys U10 doubles champions Mondo Taniguchi, left, and Rintaro Miyawaki pose for a group photo.



From left, Emily Jones, Carol Lee, and girls U15 singles winner Negahr Rastguay are all smiles after receiving their awards.



From left, girls U10 singles winners Riko Ojima, Coume Kaga, and Jireh Warren look at the camera for a photo opportunity.



Girls U18 champion Thea Minor, right, is joined by runner-up Mikayla Lopez, center, and third placer Alina Ishikawa.



From left, girls U12 singles winners Tania Tan, Mimi Sakano, and Ami Tsukagoshi show their placques.



From left, girls U10 doubles runners-up Coume Kaga and Riko Oijima pose with champions Conatsu Kaga and Asia Raulerson.



From left, U10 singles third placer Rintaro Miyawaki, runner-up Tony Atalig, and champion Rai Aditya.



**Improving
Warriors slip
past Heat,
97-95
PAGE 28**

Saipan Tribune Sports



**Dodgers on
track to pass
Yanks in
2013 payroll
PAGE 29**

32 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI swimmers off to good start

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Team started its campaign in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships on a positive note.



Rezne Wong, Kensuke Kimura, and Victoria Chentsova eclipsed their qualifying times in the opening day of the FINA competition last Wednesday morning (Wednesday evening on Saipan) at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey.

Wong raced in the 100m breaststroke and was on Heat 4 with a qualifying time of 1:07.21. He went on to complete the event in 1:05.03 and finished fourth out of the nine swimmers in his group and 70th overall among the 95 entries in the preliminary races.

Cyprus' Lefkios Xanthou won Heat 4 with a time of 1:04.11, ahead of Macedonia's Damjan Petrovski (1:04.37) and Costa Rica's Jose Montoya (1:04.43). American swimmer Kevin Cordes recorded the fastest qualifying time among the 10 heats, timing in at 57.66 seconds to lead 15 other qualifiers to the next round.

Kimura was also in the same 100m breaststroke race and chopped off more than two seconds from his qualifying time (1:12.52) after submitting 1:09.22 on Heat 2. He placed third in his group behind Kuwait's Abdulrahman Albader (1:03.28) and Turkmenistan's Russian Nazarov (1:08.17) and 78th overall.

Chentsova had a different event, competing in the 100m backstroke where her qualifying time was listed at 1:19.65. She joined Heat 1 of the preliminary races with seven others and clocked in at 1:14.14 to finish third in her group. Kazakhstan's Yekaterina Rudentko ruled Heat 1 with a time of 1:01.16, beating Myanmar's Zin Win (1:12:01), while Czech Republic's Simona Baumrtova logged the fastest time among the seven heats with her 57.65 seconds.

See CNMI on Page 30



Wong



Kimura



Chentsova

Shirley's vs CTSI/D&Q in finals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Fradel Sedillo goes up for a fastbreak layup against POI's Fernando Mejia during their semis game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Shirley's Coffee Shop and CTSI/D&Q eased past their respective semis foes to arrange a winner-take-all finale in the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League.

Shirley's walloped Pacific Oriental, Inc. in the first semifinals match, 117-60, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex, while CTSI/D&Q had a free pass to the finals after a no-show from dethroned champion Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in the second semis tiff.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 30

Agape, SCS prevail in cross country meet



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School students and teachers pose for a group photo after competing in the 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Championships held earlier this month at the American Memorial Park.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Agape Christian School and Saipan Community Schools were in full force in

the 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Championships to claim the most individual and team awards in the season finale held early this month at the American Memorial Park. Agape took the championship

trophy in the boys U18 division after four of its runners finished in the Top 10. Joseph Yang and Zeyue Lin placed second and third, respectively, to join champion Michael Mancao of Marianas High School in the Top 3.

Mancao timed in at 32:05, beating Yang in a down-to-the-wire finish, as the latter clocked in at 32:05.5. Lin submitted 32:28. The Top 3 finishers in the race around AMP received medals. **See AGAPE on Page 30**

All set for Trench Warz 16 tonight



Alvarez

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Trench Warz 16: Fire Power! is set to go off tonight at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom with doors opening at 7pm.

Trench Warz 16's headliners feature a select group of



Nuique

Trench Tech's top contenders taking on some off-island talent from Guam.

Prior to last night's weigh-ins, 10 mixed martial arts matches and two K-1 Kickboxing exhibitions were listed on the event card.

The four championship duels **See ALL on Page 30**